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# **AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER**

AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION  
OFFICIAL ORGAN

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NOVEMBER, 1938

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# FRANKLIN

VACCINES AND SUPPLIES

# Something you can check in your own experience about "*THE RAILROAD PROBLEM*"

**I**T costs you about the same to plow and plant a field, whether it yields 15 or 50 bushels to the acre.

Your taxes are about the same, regardless of your harvest.

Well, the railroads' problems are something like that.

We have to run trains regardless of the volume of traffic, which means keeping up the whole railroad plant of the nation, with 418,000 miles of trackage. And in 1938, car loadings are off about one-fourth compared to 1937—and little more than half what they were in 1929.

Our taxes are pretty largely on property, just as yours are—and we pay them whether we make money or not, at the rate of a million dollars a day.

Beyond that, we have to meet a pay roll that takes just about half our total income. The wage rate per hour is now the highest it has ever been. We're paying our employees an average of more than

77¢ per hour—10¢ an hour more than in 1929.

When you get at the core of the railroad problem, it comes down to this:

It is due, at bottom, to the fact that railroads must operate under rigid regulations based on a fifty-year-old theory that they have a monopoly in transportation—and must compete with three other forms of transportation subsidized or helped by tax money.

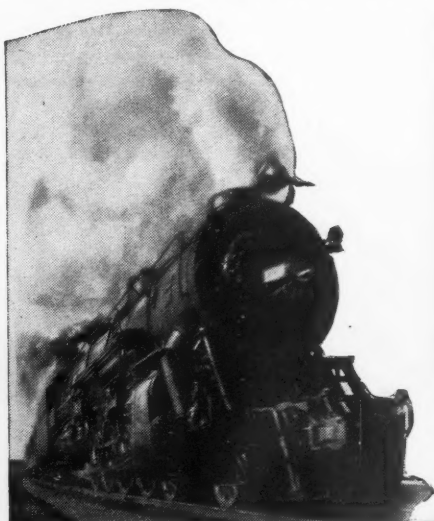
What they need is the opportunity to run their business as a business—which means, greater freedom to adjust rates to meet competition and to adjust expenses to the conditions of their business.

The American railroads have worked out a complete program taking a sensible look at their needs. As one of the nation's leading group of shippers, you have a real interest in what that program is. We'll be glad to send you a copy if you'll write for it today.

## HOW ABOUT "DEAD HORSES"?

It's been common talk for years that the railroads are "paying for dead horses"—that their capitalization is loaded with debt for property no longer useful, or that their cost was more than they are worth. The Interstate Commerce Commission has sifted this down after 25 years of study and finds that the present value of railroad transportation properties, even after full allowance for depreciation, comes to one and two-thirds billion dollars more than the total stocks and bonds outstanding.

**SAFETY FIRST—  
friendliness too!**



ASSOCIATION OF  
**AMERICAN RAILROADS**

WASHINGTON, D. C.

## LETTERS

### FAIR CHANCE

The range for the winter now (October 1) looks much better than it did in August. Some fine rains came in September. Steers are selling around 6½ cents; calves, 7. Not many calves sold yet, but trading should be good in October. It looks now as though the cowman has a fair chance of going through the winter very well.—ROSS M. ATKINS, Hot Springs, N. M.

### MAXIMUM PLANTING

Very dry this summer in immediate Dalhart country. Rains were very spotted. Where they fell, conditions are good, as in my case, twenty-five miles west. About a week of rains the first half of September all over the Panhandle, north of the Canadian River, have been a wonderful help to feed crops and have stimulated small grain planting to a maximum government allotment.—MALCOLM STEWART, Dalhart, Tex.

### CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE

Steers and lambs mostly cleaned up in Grant County, Ore., but at lower prices than in 1937. Eastern buyers of feeder steers were conspicuous by their absence this year. There is an abundance of good feed, both on the range and harvested. Fall round-up has begun (October 1). R. E. BROOKS, County Agent, Canyon City, Ore.

### FINE SHAPE

Range conditions are good in this section of Texas. Cattle will go into winter in fine shape. About 3,000 mixed calves have gone to northern feeding. Most sales were 6½ cents; heifers, 7½ cents. Steer calves averaged 400 pounds. WM. Y. FOWLER, JR., Llano, Tex.

### GOOD

Pastures are good in this section and rough feed is plentiful.—ED FERGUSON, Powell, S. D.

### NOSE BAG

"When hauling horses in a trailer or truck always hang nose bags on them and you will save many a cold and case of pneumonia and lung fever," according to Fred H. Bixby, of Long Beach, California, who is quoted in the "Weekly Market Report and News Letter," published by the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association. "Often a horse is loaded and hauled just after being ridden. He is all hot and then he has to face a 60-mile wind and it is sure to cause some trouble." The news letter adds: "You just need one barley sack to make a good nose bag, and it is not much trouble. This sounds like an excellent precaution to take for the horse's sake and incidentally your own."

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



# AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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## CONSERVATION OF WATER OF SEEPS AND SPRINGS

BY BARNARD A. HENDRICKS\*

LOCAL WATER SUPPLIES FOR human and animal use in the Southwest are commonly supplied by small seeps and springs. In some sections surface tanks, which impound run-off, constitute the only available source. These sources may seem of minor importance, but in the aggregate they are a valuable resource. If there were none, large areas of the mountainous region of the Southwest would be uninhabitable. The usefulness and value of these local water supplies are sometimes endangered by injudicious use of land (timber-slashing, farming on steep slopes) and by deterioration of the vegetation through overgrazing.

### Seeps and Springs

Under natural conditions, pockets of earth, which sometimes constitute the storage reservoirs on which small seeps and springs depend for their permanent flow, have developed and are held in place by luxuriant vegetation—trees, vines, shrubs, herbs, and grasses. Destruction of such protective vegetation ultimately results in destruction (through soil erosion) of the water reservoir also. When this happens, the precipitation water that heretofore became stored in the earth-pocket reservoirs escapes as surface run-off almost immediately after it falls, when it should serve a useful purpose as usable water.

The flows of seeps and springs that receive their water from deep underground channels or veins might not be affected by local soil erosion; but the

drainageways in which the small flows trickle are likely to become filled with silt carried in by accelerated run-off from grass-depleted areas around these watering places. When this occurs the flows spread out and form bogholes or sandy washes which are of little use for either man or beast. Although the total flow of a given seep may be considerable, when it is forced to spread out or wet a much larger area than formerly because of mud-filling, often live stock has found it impossible to satisfy its thirst. When the soils are clayey or heavy, bogholes are formed which actu-

ally endanger live stock when it is in a weakened condition, especially during periods of drought.

### Earth Tanks

When there are no springs and when wells cannot be dug, earth tanks have become the source of the only available water for human beings and live stock. These tanks vary in size from small ones (which hold water for only a short time after the rainy periods) to reservoirs large enough to supply water the year round. As a rule, the area immediately surrounding a tank is overgrazed, which overgrazing has commonly resulted not only in destruction of the vegetation but also in accelerated run-off which carries into the tank large quantities of silt, ultimately filling it. As the storage capacity of a tank is decreased by silt, the likelihood of the dam being washed out is increased. The



An unfenced seep which has been converted into a trampled bog-hole. Note exposure of roots of shrubs and trees.

\*Mr. Hendricks is associate range examiner at the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station, maintained at Tucson, Arizona, by the Forest Service in co-operation with the University of Arizona, and covering the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and western half of Texas.

A form of this type is shown in the accompanying illustration.

## Erosion Control

Where the soil storage reservoirs of small seeps and springs are menaced by erosion, erosion control is necessary to prevent further deterioration. The means of control is usually determined by the conditions around the spring, particularly the nature of the soil and availability of rocks, logs, and other materials for building check dams. The important objects should be to trap any silt that is in motion and to hold the soil mantle in place—that is, to prevent further erosion.

The watering trough should be constructed of cement and sand of good grade. The dimensions will vary somewhat, as determined by the flow of water and the number of animals that may use the trough. If the flow is small, the trough should have large capacity, for live stock should not be forced to wait for the trough to fill. The walls of the trough should be at least six inches thick; reinforcement is recommended. When many troughs are to be built, a collapsible form constructed in sections, which form can be used over and over again, is desirable.

Check dams made of rocks and bound with hog wire are very effective in controlling gully erosion. Where rocks are not obtainable, logs or brush may be used, although structures built of such materials are less permanent than those of rocks. To control sheet erosion, and hence to aid revegetation, "contour" check dams of rocks or logs may be used to advantage. Several types of check dams are described in a mimeographed article by Sykes of the South-





western Forest and Range Experiment Station, entitled "Types of Rock-and-Wire Check Dams in General Use in the Southwest." An important object in erosion-control work in connection with water developments, aside from checking erosion, is to aid development of the natural soil vegetation, in order to give permanent protection to the soil pockets (reservoirs) and to intercept for soil and ground storage as much of the precipitation water as is possible.

#### Artificial Revegetation

Where only little of the topsoils has been removed by surface erosion, revegetation is usually not particularly difficult; for then the soil-moisture conditions are usually favorable for the growth of numerous kinds of native trees, shrubs, vines, and grasses. Willows and wild grapes are well suited for revegetation around springs; both may be propagated from cuttings. Grasses that reproduce by stolons or underground rhizomes are also suitable for such purpose, particularly vine-mesquite grass (*Panicum obtusum*), bluestem (*Agropyron smithii*), and Bermuda grass (*Cyniola dactylon*).

#### Vegetation to Reduce Silting

Earth tanks usually silt up rather rapidly when the vegetation on the areas that drain into the tanks becomes deteriorated through overgrazing. However, good cover of vegetation in and along the drainageways just above the tanks will greatly aid in desilting runoff waters, thereby lengthening the effective life of the tanks. For this reason the vegetation along drainageways should be protected by fences to keep out grazing animals. These fences should enclose a fairly good-sized, narrow strip sufficiently long to give adequate protection, as vegetation within a short enclosure is likely to be washed out or overwhelmed with silt. When the vege-

tation is sparse along drainageways, due to deterioration, a few shrubs or grass clumps transplanted at critical points and protected by low barriers of rocks or logs will materially aid in revegetation of drainageways strips.

When clear water is desired, the earth tanks should also be fenced, and the water piped to troughs equipped with float valves. Usually such troughs are used only when the water is needed for both household and live-stock uses.

In conclusion: Protection and development of the water supplies and conservative management of the ranges not only help to stabilize the live-stock industry but also prevent land deterioration. Thus the cost of improvements to those ends is fully justified.

## SEVENTY MILLION HEAD IN ANNUAL INSPECTION

FIFTY YEARS AGO THERE WAS no federal meat inspection. Today the Department of Agriculture inspects about 70,000,000 meat animals annually. Each of these food animals immediately before and at the time of slaughter receives a thorough inspection by one or more trained veterinarians.

The primary necessity for federal meat inspection came from European governments, which looked with disfavor on United States meat that carried no official evidence that it came from healthy animals. In 1890 Congress established a meat-inspection service.

Shortly afterward it was broadened to apply to all slaughtering establishments that prepare meat foods for interstate, as well as foreign, trade.

The present meat-inspection law was enacted in 1906. This law still further extended the federal meat inspection to include all meats and meat food products of establishments that ship their prod-

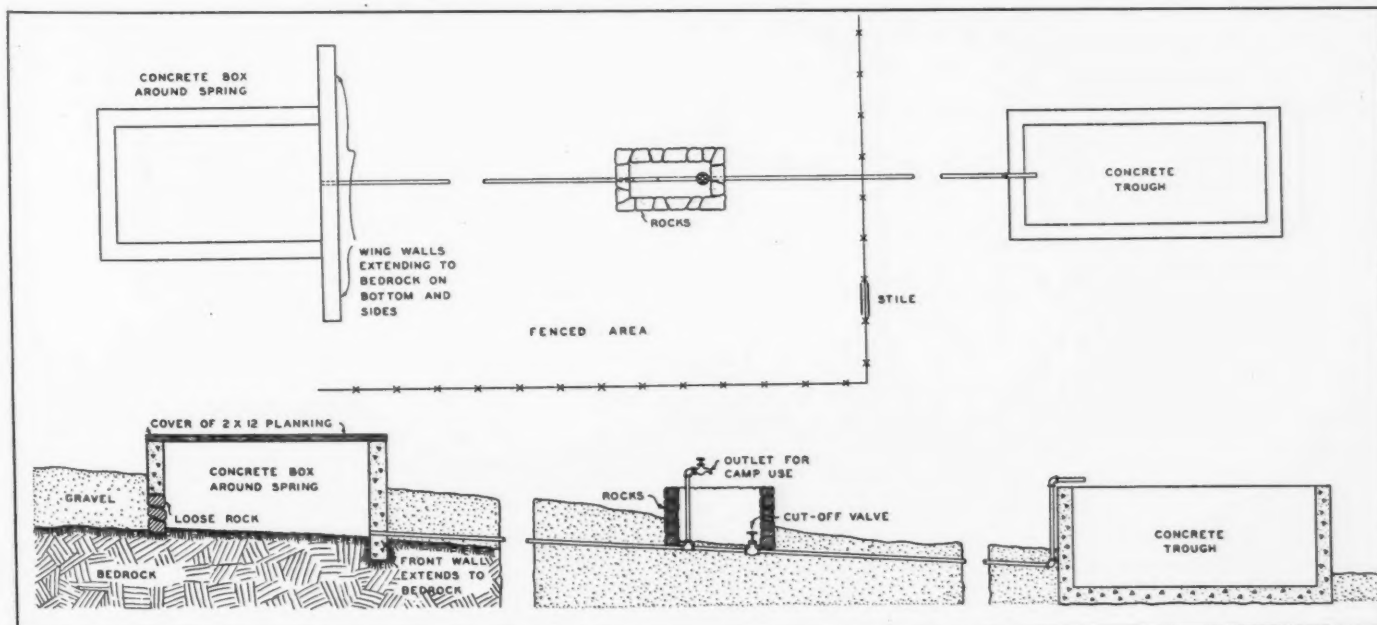
ucts in interstate or export trade. However, the law exempts farmers from federal inspection, and to some extent local butchers and meat dealers who ship their products across state lines in serving their own customers. Any meat business entirely within the boundaries of a state is exempt. It works out that about two-thirds of the country's supply gets federal inspection.

There are seven essential parts to federal meat inspection. These are: sanitation of the establishment, inspection before slaughter, post-mortem inspection, products inspection, laboratory inspection, disposal of condemned material, and labeling. Although most live-stock offered for slaughter is healthy, inspectors find about fifty diseases or abnormal conditions that prevent animals or their carcasses from receiving a clean bill of health.

Federal meat inspection is paid for by the government—not by the packers, nor by the meat trade. Official records show that the total cost of all operations, including administration, is about seven cents an animal. This is about one-fiftieth of a cent a pound for all meat products inspected, or between three and four cents a person a year.

There are other benefits besides protection to human health. The Bureau of Animal Industry, which conducts the meat inspection service, generally is able to trace shipments of diseased cattle to their source. Ranchmen, farmers, and officials engaged in disease-eradication projects appreciate this service. It helps to locate and remove causes of infection, improve farm conditions, and in turn cut production costs.

Another question often asked regarding federal meat inspection is "What is done with condemned meat and meat products?" All condemned meat is constantly in charge of inspectors until destroyed for food purposes, as by reduction to fertilizer and inedible grease.



# THE FIRST CATTLE UP FROM TEXAS

BY BYRON STORY

**D**ID THE NELSON STORY THOUSAND-head herd of cattle go up the Bozeman trail? Was it in 1866? Or was there such a drive at all?

J. Elmer Brock, a Wyoming cattleman, asked me these questions. He wanted to hear some of the exciting details of Nelson Story's adventures. He had heard that this migration was over the Bridger Trail. He had heard that no such trailing took place at all. So he put the questions to me.

I said: "Yes, but you will need some evidence. I have a lot of it, more than enough to make out a case for my father."

Nelson Story was a rancher and a successful businessman. From the nucleus of 1,000 head in the fall of 1866, he had 17,000 in 1886; but the following hard winter cut it to 8,000.

Nelson Story was born in Burlingham, Ohio, in 1838. At 18, with \$36 and a year's university work, he started west. At Leavenworth, Kansas, he sold fence rails. Between there and Denver he ox-teamed. In 1863 he struck out for Idaho, which then included Montana and other territory.

When my father arrived at Bannock City (Montana), things began to happen. He got there the day after practically everyone in the town had evacuated—gone in a body to the new "diggins" at Alder Gulch. In thirty days 10,000 men were in the gulch, and my father, with the pack train he guided across the plains, was one of them.

His pack animals were in demand. He made a short business run down to Nevada City. There was a large crowd gathered across the way from the commercial corral where he put his pack animals up for the night.

"What's going on?" he asked a bystander.

"They're trying a road agent for murder," he was told. He got more details after he took up a position with the armed guard that had been thrown around the jury and the lawyers and the prisoner.

The prisoner was found guilty, sentenced, and, with a soap box and rope, was made ready to meet his maker. But he was a member of a gang. Perhaps a score of road agents mingled with the crowd. The deputy sheriff had been threatened. He did not relish his office as executioner, and in fear appealed to the gathering to know what to do.

"Take hold here, Ben." Nelson Story was speaking quietly to a friend, Benjamin Ezekiel, standing next to him. Together they pulled the box from under the condemned man.

And that was that. Guns were cocked, but no shot fired.

Concerning the trailing of the herd from Texas, it was in early 1866 that Nelson Story set out with two of his men for Ft. Worth, Texas. Near that city he bought 1,000 cattle, mostly cows with calves thrown in, at \$10 a head. They drove the cattle north to the Kansas line, then west along the boundary (a tick quarantine forced this) until they were "past civilization's outpost," then across Kansas into Nebraska, and then northwesterly to Ft. Laramie, Wyoming. From there to Ft. Phil Kearney. A little Indian



Nelson Story

trouble, and then to Ft. C. F. Smith, in Montana. Three weeks of a forced stay at Ft. Smith made my father desperate to the point of disobeying the officer's orders and stealing off one night so far that the officer dared not come after him. He and his outfit stopped at the Big Horn. More Indian trouble.

My father told me he never had killed an Indian; but that night under cover of darkness he and his men trailed thirty Indians to camp and had to wipe out the entire group to recover their longhorns.

From there the outfit drove along the Bozeman Trail, crossed the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone at the old Bozeman crossing, and struck the Yellowstone River about at the mouth of Stillwater Creek near Columbus. From there they trailed up the Yellowstone to the present site of Livingston, and there Nelson Story established a permanent cattle camp.

That is the route he took. In the book, *Cattle*, Nelson Story's trailing of 600 cattle from Texas to Montana is narrated—the first to be trailed up.

And here, perhaps, is an example of how the conflicting reports have got started. On one of Story's trips to the capital, this appeared in an article in the *Washington Post*:

"He [Nelson Story] is a native of Ohio, but many years ago sought his fortune in the Far West and has greatly prospered. 'I was the first man,' he said last night, 'to drive a herd of cattle from Texas to Colorado. This I did in 1866, the herd comprising about 1,000 head, and the trip consuming about five months. I located in Denver in 1859.'"

The word "Colorado" must have been a mistake of the reporter, who confused the trailing to Montana with the freight trips from Ft. Leavenworth to Denver.

Other newspaper accounts:

From the *Billings Herald*, April 10, 1885.—Nelson Story, answering the toast on the Yellowstone round-up, said he was the first man to engage in the cattle business in Montana, having driven cattle into the territory in 1866.

From the *Bozeman Courier*, April 18, 1917.—Fifty years ago today, John M. Bozeman, the man for whom this city is named, was killed by Indians. Of the men who helped bury Bozeman fifty years ago, Nelson Story of this city is the only one now living. . . . It was on the morning of April 17, 1867, that John M. Bozeman and Thomas Coover left this city for Ft. C. F. Smith. . . . The first night out they camped with Nelson Story and W. S. McKensie, who had a cattle camp near the present site of Livingston. Bozeman and Coover started on their journey again in the morning . . . they camped for dinner . . . saw four Indians approaching. Bozeman thought they were Blackfeet Indians and supposed they were friendly, but while they were talking, one of the Indians stepped behind Bozeman and shot him. Coover escaped . . . and walked back to the Story and McKensie cattle camp.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



From the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*.—On the Texas Trail with Nelson Story. Nelson Story, Sr., piloted the first herd of longhorns to Montana over the famous Texas Trail in the year 1866. The early cattle industry of Montana had its Genesis in the first herd of Texas longhorns brought in, and the historical credit of that event goes to Nelson Story, Sr. It was brought out at Billings recently through a visit to that city of Mrs. Granville Stuart, widow of the discoverer of gold in western Montana in 1857. . . . The bringing in of the Texas herd was a venture attended by many perils and vicissitudes, according to Mrs. Stuart. "In 1866," said Mrs. Stuart, "Nelson Story, Sr., went way down in Texas and bought 250 head of Texas cattle and drove them to St. Joseph, Missouri. There he bought a stock of goods, broke a sufficient number of oxen to yoke to pull the wagons, and started overland for Montana, driving the remainder of the cattle. He met with difficulties from the start. Somewhere they quarantined him and his cattle in order to keep them from coming in the Northwest with Texas stock, and he and his party were compelled to make a long detour in order to get back on the Platte River Trail. They did so, however, but when they reached Ft. Kearney they were told they could not possibly get to Montana over the Bozeman Trail, because the Indians were too hostile. The fort authorities had orders to leave the forts and turn the country back to the Indians. Mr. Story left with his party and their wagon train and stock in the night in order to outwit the officers, and so continued their way to Montana, which they accomplished over the Bozeman Trail, fighting Indians all of the way. They reached Bozeman with the stock and had a surprisingly small loss. That was the

first herd of Texas cattle brought to Montana, so far as is known."

The preceding quotations from Mrs. Granville Stuart are more or less correct, but some are a little vague. She knew about these things through her husband, who was a cattleman as well as a miner, but she only knew them in a general way.

She says: "Mr. Story bought 250 head of cattle way down in Texas and drove them to St. Joseph, Missouri. Somewhere they were quarantined," etc. They were quarantined and not allowed to enter Kansas; therefore, they were compelled to make the long "detour" of which she speaks. "Way down in Texas" is very vague, and therefore it is not surprising that she said "250 head." He did go to St. Joseph on the return trip from Ft. Worth to get his goods and supplies but did not take any of the Texas cattle there. It was impossible for him to do so on account of the quarantine.

She makes a long jump from the Platte River to Ft. Phil Kearney and does not mention Ft. Laramie, through which he passed.

"The fort authorities had orders to leave the forts and turn the country back to the Indians," she says. That is true, but in the fall of 1867 my father furnished 100,000 pounds of potatoes to Ft. C. F. Smith and took two wagon-loads additional from Ft. Smith in Montana down to Ft. Phil Kearney in Wyoming. Ft. C. F. Smith was abandoned the following year, and my father and W. S. McKensie bought it from the government. McKensie and Renshaw took a contract of furnishing Ft. Smith with

wood in the fall of 1867. My father and McKensie only got one train load of supplies and equipment out of the fort when Red Cloud came in and burned the fort.

Mrs. Stuart says: "They reached Bozeman with the stock and had a surprisingly small loss." The cattle herd never came to Bozeman, but was stopped at the permanent camp near Livingston, my father going on to Bozeman with his supplies, oxen, and wagons. He did bring a string of calves to Bozeman from the Yellowstone one winter to feed, and it was probably the early spring of 1887.

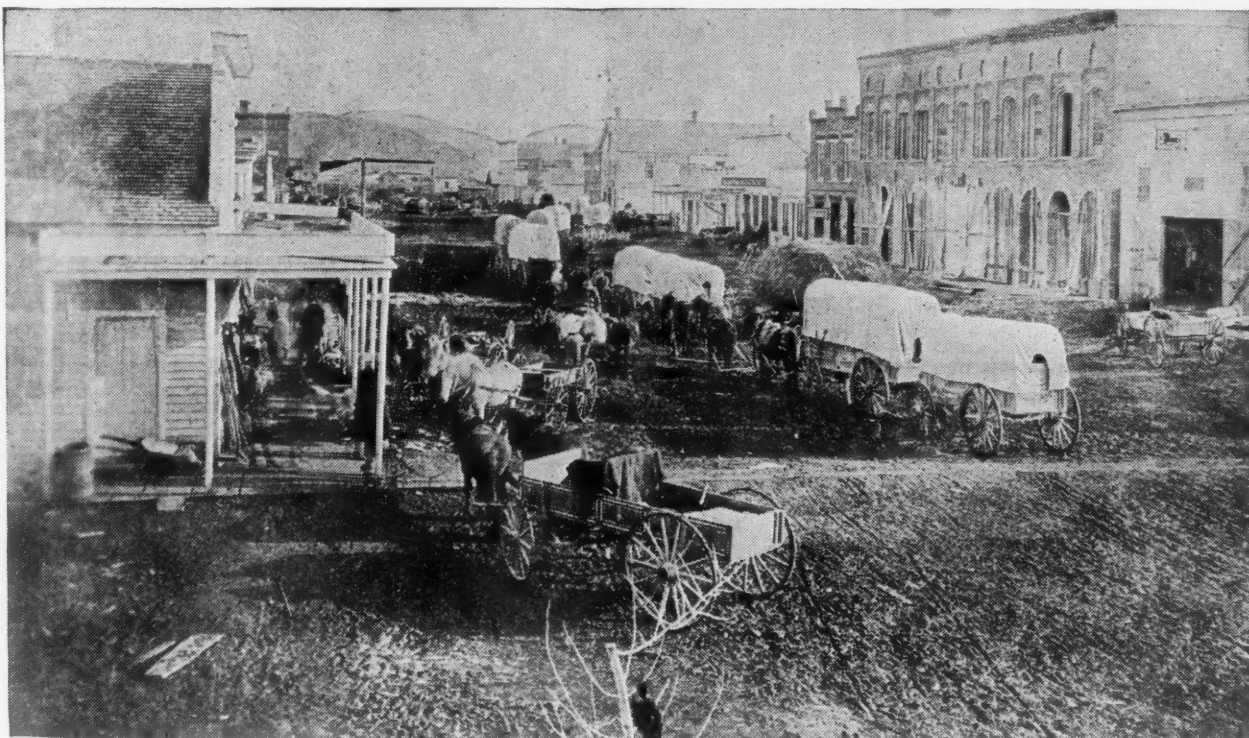
## FACTORS AFFECTING BEEF CONSUMPTION\*

BY MRS. CLIFFORD KOONTZ

IT IS NOT KNOWN WHEN MAN first began eating meat, but we do know that it has been one of the most important foods since the beginning of man. We know that many primitive peoples made offerings of meat to their deities, and in some countries meat preparation was considered of so much importance as to be semisacred, and only the priestly orders could engage in it. Meat is often mentioned in the Bible, and must have held an important place; for, when the prodigal son returned, the father ordered the fatted calf to be killed.

After the Norman Conquest the language of the court was Norman-French. It is here we obtained the word beef, which they spelled b-o-e-u-f.

\*Address delivered before the Yavapai Cattle Growers' Association on August 20, 1938.



Street scene in early day Bozeman, Montana, taken back in 1872

Cattle now in America came from two parent sources—from Mexico, brought here by Cortez, and directly from Europe. The colonists brought them over because they needed a more dependable supply of meat.

#### Leading Industry

About one-third of the American people are vitally concerned in the business of growing meat animals, processing them, and producing their feed, and so naturally seeing that the product brings the proper price. The production of meat in the Americas is a leading industry largely because of the boundless acreages suitable to the growing of animal life and the production of its food.

Meat is important in the normal diet because it supplies a special quality of protein which furnishes the material for building new tissue, repairing worn out tissue, and for giving heat energy. It is also high in iron, rich in phosphorus, and contains valuable vitamins.

The Department of Agriculture through its Bureau of Home Economics made a study of how the American income is spent. It found that about 33.5 per cent was spent for food. According to literature put out by the Central Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association, from 25 to 35 per cent of the housewives' food dollar is spent for meat and 80 per cent of the volume of retail meat is purchased by her. Approximately one-tenth of the total American income goes for meat. This shows the important part meat plays in the daily diet.

#### Consumption Reviving

Cattle slaughter and beef consumption per capita are, of course, very closely related. When cattle slaughter is low, the per capita consumption is low. The general trend of beef consumption has been down since 1907. In that year it was 77 pounds per capita. If you will look at the chart you will see how it has decreased. The figures used in making

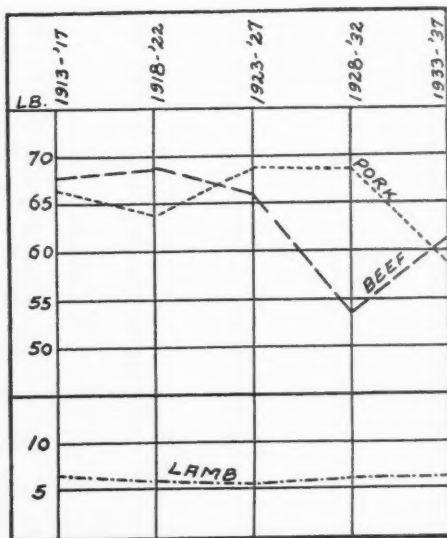


Chart I. Per capita consumption of meats by five-year periods.

these charts were taken from material issued by the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

Looking at Chart I you will note that the consumption of beef went down from 68.3 pounds per capita in 1913 to 54.8 pounds in 1934, but in the past five years there has been a rise back to 62.3. There has been a continued increase in veal and lamb, showing that more people are demanding these. You will also note that

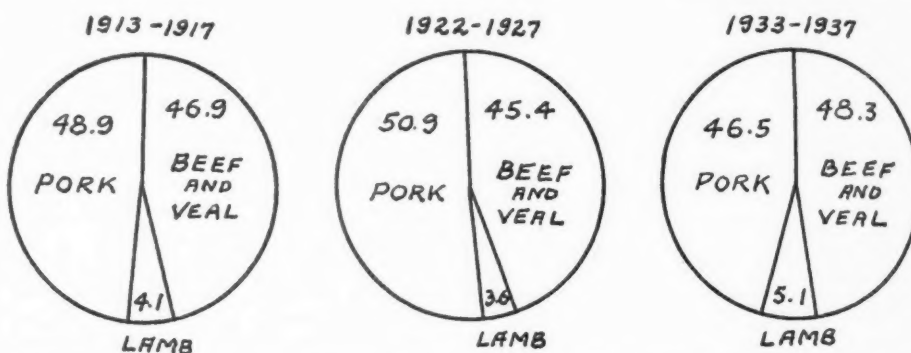


Chart II. Showing in percentages the production of beef and veal, lamb, and pork.

there was an upward trend in consumption of pork until 1932, though during the past five years it has dropped from 69.4 pounds per capita to 58.5 pounds. This decrease was due to the reduced hog population and the consequent higher price.

#### Production Increased

Chart II is a comparison, by five-year periods, of the percentage position occupied by the three leading meats in the matter of production. During the period 1913-17, beef and veal made up 46.9 per cent of the total production. From 1922 to 1927 this percentage dropped to 45.4, but rose again for the period 1933-37 to 48.3 per cent. For the same periods, pork and lamb rose or fell to make up for the decrease or increase in beef production.

Some of the factors affecting beef consumption are: The market supply—that is, the amount on the market. General price level—when the price of beef is down, consumption of beef goes up; the consumption also goes up when income goes up, but not at the expense of other commodities. The consumers' income—strikes and depressions cause people to have less money to spend; therefore, they can buy less meat. The extensive advertising of breakfast food has helped reduce the demand for beef. The tendency to eat more fruit and vegetables has had the same effect. It was once thought by many people that meat caused certain ailments. However, modern scientific authorities after much research and study agree that beef does not cause these. The price of competing meats and the cost of processing and distribution have both played a part in reducing the consumption of beef.

Every day the consumer administers one end of a very significant law, that

of supply and demand. At one end of the line is the producer, who handles the supply, and at the other end the consumer, who handles demand. Together they establish most of the prices of the products of the farm. Thus the price of meat is determined by the volume of meat for sale and the desire of the buying public for the product. Neither are constant, so the price changes from day to day. Price also is

affected by quality and time of the year. All these are matters of vital interest to the producer; for, when meat prices increase, live-stock prices follow.

#### Fourteen Hundred Packers

There are 1,200 packing plants in the United States, all helping the producer as well as the consumer. They offer a wide and varied market for the producer and contribute to the convenience of the consumer.

Factors of benefit to the live-stock producer are:

1. Refrigeration. This method of caring for meat has made it available the year around and has made it possible to transport it to any desired destination. However, the greatest importance as far as the producer is concerned is that it makes a continuous demand for live stock the year around.

2. Utilization of By-Products. It is estimated by Swift and Company that in a 1,000-pound steer about 543 pounds will be meat, 161 pounds will be by-products, and 296 pounds will be shrinkage and waste. Packers employ scientists to try to find new uses for the waste from slaughter. Sometimes the by-product value returns to the meat packer the entire cost of processing the animal. In all, it has been estimated that more than 140 articles which may be classed as by-products are now obtained from meat animals. By means of these by-products the packer can give the producer more money for his cattle and ask the consumer less than he otherwise would have to ask.

3. Storage Stocks. This helps maintain the sale of meat on a steadier level. The meat is stored during seasons of heavy production and sold during periods when supplies are light, tending to reduce fluctuations in supply.



4. Development of Export Trade. By maintaining markets abroad for American meat and meat products, the packing industry has stimulated and increased demand for meat. They are teaching people of the world who have not eaten meat as a part of their regular diet to eat it. In Tokio today there are 3,000 butcher stalls where fifteen years ago there were only three or four.

5. New Merchandising Methods. Those interested in meat consumption are trying to establish a greater popularity for meat. They work on the theory that meat must be desired by the consumers before it can be sold to them, and as the desire for meat is increased the consumer will be more willing to pay a higher price. As we all know, a vigorous merchandising campaign was started this year by the Institute of American Meat Packers and the National Live Stock and Meat Board, and the latter organization is constantly conducting educational programs to increase the knowledge of the care and use of meats and therefore finally increase its consumption.

6. New Outlets for Meat. New meat products are being introduced and more kinds of sausages and ready-to-serve meats are being placed on the markets.

7. Greater Efficiency. Much effort is being exerted today to eliminate all unnecessary expense in the handling and transporting of meats, with the thought that this saving may be passed on to the consumer and thus reduce his price and increase his demand.

#### Light Meat Eaters

The International Institute of Agriculture states that only approximately one-fourth of the world's population eats an appreciable quantity of meat. Argentina consumes the most meat per capita—254 pounds annually. New Zealand consumes 221 pounds; Australia, 200 pounds; and Canada, 143 pounds. Here, for comparison, we may recall our chart figures showing the United States consumption to be 62.3 pounds per capita annually. It would appear from this that we are relatively light meat eaters, which fact would indicate room for expansion. It is thought the high consumption of beef in the foreign countries mentioned is due to the abundance of meat produced there and the comparatively low price of meat in relation to the price of other products. There is a large rural population in these countries, and it is known that rural areas have a larger consumption of meat per capita than densely populated areas.

It is claimed by most of the thinking men and women of our nation that fundamental changes are taking place in our thinking and our activities and that sooner or later we are going to be forced to face these. They say we are passing through a period of adjustment. The old theories do not seem to work so

well. It is up to each American citizen to do his part in this adjustment in order to make the best possible conditions for his own industry in the future.

The business of raising live stock, processing it into meat, selling it to distributors, who pass it along to the millions of consumers is an enterprise in which all units must work together efficiently. Live-stock producers, meat packers, and retail dealers are all dependent on one another. They must work to achieve one great result—greater popularity and consumption of meat.

It is said the cattle producers have added more to the stability and the development of this western country than have any other group, so let us continue to hold this place in the future and all work together for the good of the meat industry.

## WHAT COST PROCESSING TAXES?

BY JAMES E. POOLE

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS MAKE this a pertinent question, confirming what President Wright of the Nevada Cattle Growers' Association gleaned in Washington a few months since, eliciting emphatic subsequent denial. Secretary (Processing Tax) Wallace is out in the open. Congress, resuming its powwow at the "bureauful" capital in January, will in its wisdom either turn down the proposition with both thumbs up, having the peculiar attraction of another tax to the legislative mind, authorize an impost.

What cost processing tax? Congress may be specific, or it may relegate the amount to bureaucratic discredit. Secretary (We Need the Money) Wallace makes no bones of pressing necessity for raising money wherewith to provide additional "manna." President Roosevelt is obdurate, limiting the amount available from the Treasury at \$500,000,000, with admonition that special taxation must provide the residue needed, popularly estimated at another 500,000,000



simoleons. Slapping a tax aggregating 100,000,000 iron men on the three species, cattle, hogs, and sheep—this, of course, is speculative—would go part of the way toward the \$1,000,000,000 goal. What Congress may do is as definite as a cyclone sequence, but that it will take some action is as certain as ballot boxes are perennially stuffed or that a slot machine exudes political graft.

Secretary ('Raus mit Dan Casement's Farmers Liberty League) Wallace's Kansas pronouncement, repeated at other points on the map, eliminates uncertainty, precipitating another scrap. When the critter was killed and its hide hung on the fence several years back, live-stock interests considered it a closed chapter of trade history. Resuscitated, the capital crowd asserted: "They can't do that." But its ghost is active. Another attempt to rob Peter to pay Paul is on the fire, sizzling odorously.

Henry (Feed Surplus Crops to the Poor) Wallace intimates that the tax will be passed on to the ultimate consumer. That economic fallacy was exploded long since. Swine growers, still disposed to snort when the subject is mooted, will take the stand and unanimously swear that in that experimental stage—a notable if not noble experiment—the tax came off the value of their hogs. Confirmation of this is to be found in the testimony of George Putnam, economist for the packers' national organization, before the Senate Agricultural Committee, that as the impost was gradually stepped up from 50 cents to \$2 per cwt. the amount was deducted from drove cost. Additional confirmation may be found in the slump in hog prices during that period. When the Supreme Court knocked a prop from under the program, declaring the tax unconstitutional, \$2 was promptly restored to swine drove cost.

#### Unanimous Disapproval

The writer recalls an incident at the annual gathering of the Nebraska Cattle Feeders' Association at Lincoln when a processing tax on cattle was proposed. One Coley Cobb, an AAA cotton expert, hiked from Washington to Nebraska for the purpose of convincing western cattlemen that he was the bearer of glad tidings, reading the contents of a ream of typewritten copy. As Cobb hailed from Georgia, stressing the fact that he was a cotton expert, he failed to get an enthusiastic greeting. My turn on the rostrum followed. Declining to discuss an intangible proposition, I asked those favoring a cattle tax to raise their hands. One man responded and was promptly hustled outside. Addressing the Washington emissary I remarked:

"Mr. Cobb, you are in the second important beef making state. You have heard its unanimous dissenting voice to your proposition. May I suggest that when you return to Washington you will not report that Nebraska is 90 per cent favorable to a cattle tax."

Followed the annual meeting of the

Montana Stock Growers' Association at Miles City, where another emissary, Mr. McChord, appeared with a less voluminous typed message. Apprised of intense hostility, he sagaciously read the valentine, supplementing it orally with: "Gentlemen, I realize that advocating a cattle processing tax to this gathering would be tantamount to shaking a red rag at a bull, consequently I shall not attempt it." Subsequently I called for a show of hands, eliciting unanimous disapproval.

Thereafter I talked on the subject at hastily called meetings in Clinton County, Iowa, Muscatine County, Iowa, and Peoria County, Illinois, with similar results. Came the Sherman House episode at Chicago, a veritable flop so far as the proponents of the scheme were concerned, whereat Colonel Ed. O'Neal, the noted Alabama "cowman," made an oratorical appeal for concurrence, urging assembled cattle feeders not to reject the greatest boon ever handed out to the industry. Thereafter persistent effort was rendered futile only by vigilance on the part of western cattlemen led by the American National Live Stock Association; otherwise the thing would have been put over.

#### Ingratitude

Now the renaissance. Tucked away where moths could not destroy it, the idea is being revived in a dire emergency. Henry (Normal Granary) Wallace is making fervent appeal, candidly admitting that without additional mazuma a blowup impends. The Secretary, admittedly a live wire, assumes a we-gotta-do-something attitude. That he is entitled to sympathy will not be disputed—a conspicuous victim of agrarian ingratitude. His sincerity is beyond question. Grover Cleveland once said: "The hardest man to get along with is one who is sincere but wrong." The processing tax principle is wrong even if the burden could be passed along to the consumer. Packers, seeking return of the money they paid into the Treasury, were told they could come and get it on furnishing proof that it was extracted from their pockets, whereupon they desisted from solicitation. On the other hand, packers who never paid a thin dime of the tax kept the coin.

Henry (They Went Back On Me) Wallace, pointing a metaphorical finger at innumerable welchers who took Uncle Sam's money until the time arrived to come across with a *quid pro quo* in the shape of more or less stringent crop restrictions, pleads that processing taxes will be so thinly distributed as to hurt no one—a stereotyped condition of officialdom clamoring, like *Oliver Twist*, for more. Assuming for the purpose of argument that such a tax falls on the ultimate consumer, what will the kick-back be? Resentment, taking the shape of reduced meat consumption. And the public was never more tax conscious, more resentful than at this moment, more denunciatory of sales taxes, especially on food. What ensued when the

hog tax was imposed? A partial pork boycott. Shortly after, beef trade picked up, to the ill-disguised gratification of beef-handling specialists. Tax the entire meat list—of course, fish and poultry will be exempt, also cheese, a keen competitor of meat—and indignation will mount. Eastern newspapers which played up the hog tax will scare-head the proposed innovation.

Live-stock growers are supporting a movement to stimulate meat consumption through the National Live Stock and Meat Board. As well abandon that meritorious enterprise if consumption is to be repressed by this proposed blunder. Meat consumption could be reduced 50 per cent without causing serious gastronomic hardship. Remember what happened when the meat consumers' strike late in 1937 was in full swing. Inestimable damage was inflicted, penalizing every cattle, swine, and sheep grower between both oceans. Sensation mongering journals, for whom meat is always a shining mark, are merely awaiting another similar opportunity.

Between these two massive millstones the unfortunate producer is in a "dern bad fix." Actually penalized by the tax, he incurs consumer odium by official contention that he is a beneficiary, that the consumer, in the role of Peter, is robbed to pay Paul, the producer.

An eminent student, if not professor of what Carlyle over 100 years ago dubbed a dismal science, economics, Secretary (Shake Up the Office Force) Wallace cannot kid himself, or his entourage, concerning these things. That they "went back" on him is indisputable. In other words, the agrarian co-operation he confidently expected has not materialized. Like many a savior of history, he is threatened with crucifixion.

The percentage of farmers and live-stock growers convinced that no practical method of economic relief has yet been devised is increasing. County agents, emulating Cal Coolidge's example, are mum. Make an effort to elicit an opinion from the majority, and they will either walk away or ask you what you will have to drink. The great

majority are weary, and would resort to profanity if it were ethical. Amid changing policies as administrations change, they are a pack of goats.

Nor are the heads of congressmen representing agrarian constituencies resting easily, realizing that the farm problem baby will be bawling on the Capitol steps when they reach Washington in January. Quoting from Pinafore, the life of an M. C. is not a happy one, and producers of every commodity from cotton to cabbage are nursing grievances, clamoring for a Messiah. Recently collapsing values have merely aggravated a desperate situation. Live stock is partially immune, hence a tax target.

Br'er (Control Through the Corn Crib) Wallace is entitled to an adult's dose of commiseration. He has done the best he knew how, although ignoring danger signals. The result: another appeal to Congress, a new phase of the exodus to Utopia.

What cost processing taxes? Live-stock interests are metaphorically walking the floor nights pondering on the subject. An echoing "they can't do that" falls flat. Meanwhile more crackpot farm relief schemes are on tap; rejected nostrums are on parade. Columnists and commentators, many of them as ignorant, so far as this particular subject is concerned, as is the akhoond of Swat about the plan of salvation, are working overtime. The resultant barrage of nonsense was invited by the Messiahs, who have only themselves to blame. They asked for "something better."

#### Tax Possible

Reaching eventually the Halls of Congress, another interminable wrangle will ensue, terminated probably by a slapdash act that will merely obfuscate a deplorable situation. And it is just possible that a processing tax card will come out on top of the pack. At least it will have strong backing.

Indicative of prevailing opinion is the inevitable response by audiences recently addressed by the subscriber-cattle feeders' dinners at Danville, Mattoon, Ipava, and Sparland, Illinois—all beef making sections. Not a scintilla favorable to processing taxes was elicited.

All the live-stock industry asks is to be let alone.

Pressing need for processing taxes is illustrated by an incident in the career of Bill Nye, the humorist. Lecturing in the southern Bible belt, he was housed at an inferior hotel. Corn pone and sowbelly three times daily, a corn husk mattress on which to woo Morpheus. Presented with a bill, for \$5 per diem, he said to the owner: "I am not protesting, because my agent settles, but will you gratify my curiosity by explaining why you charge so excessively for inferior service?"

Ejecting a quart of tobacco tincture on the ceiling, his host, Nye records, replied: "Yessir, I will. It's because I need the money so dern bad."





# WE TAKE A PEEK INTO THE LIVE STOCK FUTURE

BY JAMES E. POOLE

AT THE RISK OF POACHING ON other preserves, a glimpse into the future will be attempted. Paraphrasing contemporary literature respecting financial, industrial, and agricultural prospects, everything is contingent on what develops meanwhile. Never before has a swelling army of "commentators," radio and journalistic, been so loquacious, literally bewildering their audiences. Kaleidoscopic government policies, especially with respect to agriculture, aggravate obfuscation.

Specifically concerning meat production and distribution: The outlook is far from discouraging. Cheap raw material has solved one problem feeders recently wrestled with, which was Dame Nature's doings rather than a "we-planned-it-that-way" consequence. In an impersonal way nature has a confirmed habit of massing its forces to confound human ingenuity. With respect to feed, recalcitrant agrarians have similarly conspired. Continuance of low-cost gain in the feed-lot is assured regardless of official generosity in the matter of crop loans, bonuses, and other palliatives, savoring of application of surface emollients to remedy a constitutional disease.

At the moment each branch of the live-stock market is at a seasonal adjustment stage. Adjustments work both ways, although the term is popularly confounded with depreciation in this connection. Adjusting assets of a closed bank is synonymous with soaking depositors; in the case of a lame-duck railroad, invoking 77B. However, in the sphere of live-stock, barter static conditions are impossible, seasonal mutations, inevitable. Adam Smith may be numbered among our economic saints, and his fundamentals are as effective as the day he pounded them out on the keyboard of his primitive typewriter.

## Beef Slaughter to Repeat

Specifically with respect to 1939 beef cattle trade: Slaughter on a count-of-tails basis will be approximately the same as during the current year. Light steers and heifers will predominate, as only "regulars" will carry into weight. Feeders have invested an enormous sum in the aggregate, much of it acquired by placing their John Hancocks on slips of paper, and both lenders and borrowers are nervous. Ominous murmuring concerning processing taxes and further tariff relaxation to the advantage of Canadian cattle interests are at least disturbing. Recovery of investment comes ahead of cheap feed, and as cattle are decently fit for a place in the cooler killers will get them.

There is danger of repetition of what

happened during the first quarter of 1937 when the market was crowded over a period of several weeks, depressing prices to unreasonably low levels—\$8.50 to \$9.50 per cwt. That liquidation was prompted by an estimate concerning the number of cattle in feed-lots subsequently discredited by monthly slaughter statistics and was partly responsible for current scarcity of long-fed bullocks. Assuming that orderly marketing is practiced and that feeders curtail loading on breaks, a reasonably stable market is probable. Whenever in a single week they get a few thousand head more than beef replacement requirements, killers will take off 25 to 50 cents per cwt., such dips, angles, and sinuities being inevitable, picking weak spots or such grades as happen to comprise the bulk of a one-week supply. The formula will be recognized, if not accepted.

## Narrower Price Spread

After the turn of the year, character of supply will change in seasonal manner. Search for long-fed steers will disclose hard picking, and processors will bewail "too many cattle of one kind." As the winter works along, the weak sisters will be eliminated, condition will improve, and killers will part with their money with less vociferous protest. Should hide prices work higher, beef impost will be shaved. Low-grade, well conditioned steers, inevitably scarce, are scheduled to come in handy for utilization as "phony" yearling product. January to May, the price spread, now wide, will contract. None of this is to be construed as dogmatic—merely probable as "something that may happen."

Present indications are, however, that, if feeders use judgment, congestion, either in live or dressed trade, can be avoided. A regular supply is advantageous to killers, as "cracks" in the cattle market are anything but advantageous to selling the product. Jobbers and retailers are proverbially alert, insisting on concessions at periods when killers are selling beef acquired on a higher cattle market.

Recognition of the fact that beef is costly, relative to many competing foods, is necessary to proper understanding; in fact, it is the highest food on the list of comestibles. During the impending poultry season this competition will be keen, as a huge crop of turkeys is in the offing, and it gets right of way from Thanksgiving until the scraps have been assimilated after Christmas and the bones consigned to the garbage can. Kosher beef trade is

constricted during the holiday season by abundance of aquatic avian food, ducks and geese enjoying popularity in Semitic circles and seasonally plentiful. Poultry out of the way, beef will resume its accustomed sway gastronomically and the fat-cattle market get an opportunity to resume its more or less even tenor.

A miniature accumulation will insure competition on cheaper grades of cattle, especially sausage and ground-meat material. Feed abundance promises an all-winter replacement demand. A hand-to-mouth basis for everything wearing a hide and convertible into a scrap of red meat looms up. Cheek meat, edible parts of the viscera, and much advertised coarse cuts appeal to housewives in economical mood, compulsorily or voluntarily, and the average woman provisioning a family is habituated to counting her pennies.

## Pork Should Prosper

Specifically as to pork: An uncertain factor is increased production south of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi, where the sow has become an object of reverence. New, although miniature, marketing centers are breaking out on the map and processors are whetting their knives in anticipation of increased volume. This development has probably not attained sufficient headway to make a serious addition to the national meat supply; but expansion of dairy production, especially in Texas, largely responsible for distress signals flying in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and New York, may be duplicated. In any event, northern swine growers are threatened with loss of their Cotton and Tobacco Belt outlet, if not with actual invasion, as processors have no respect for territory. Entering the winter packing season with light stocks, processors are in a mood to accumulate at a price, and that price should not be materially lower than the current basis. Otherwise expansion of porcine breeding herds will be arrested. Pork is reputed to be the "poor man's meat." If skeptical on the subject, witness a constant scramble at any metropolitan market for snouts, ears, jowls, tails, and pluck meat.

## Hope for Lamb

Specifically as to sheep and lambs: A ray of hope is detected in weekly clearance of both ewe and lamb product throughout several months of heavy, if not unprecedented, production. Feeders are in decidedly stronger statistical position than a year ago when corn fields were populous with high-cost feeders and commercial feeders west of the Missouri were loaded to the gunwales with lambs that ultimately figured on deficiency paper in bankers' safes. Although replacement cost is dangerously close to fat-lamb prices, the latter show a marked upward tendency. Lamb feeders are also getting a break on cheap gains, and an upward wool-market trend

is in their favor, killers' pelt allowances exerting an important influence on wholesale carcass cost. As few lambs went into cornfields during the summer and fall, a supply gap is possible before the main winter supply fills the market hopper.

What happens when the winter fed-lamb crop is in depends largely on physical conditions. Despite a ragged market all summer, enthusiasm over wool and lamb production runs high. Western flockmasters have retained ewe lambs for replacement; east of the Missouri River, especially in the Southeast, breeding stock is at a premium to the extent that ewe lambs are being pressed into service. Weather conditions at lambing time exert such a potent influence on numbers that speculation is idle, but farm flock percentages will be high, and, in any event, production will be fully equal to consumption requirements.

Nothing in the foregoing takes into account national legislation or the possibility that South American fresh meat may acquire a footing in the domestic market, in which event all bets are off. In race track parlance, a "new book" will be made. Scant probability exists that Uncle Sam will encounter an appeal to buy up surplus meat stocks where-with to appease indigent hunger.

## PERMANENT CATTLE AUCTION IN FLORIDA

BY LEE EDEN

**D**OWN IN THE LITTLE COW town of Kissemme, Florida, there is rejoicing among the men who raise beef cattle and those who buy them. After five months of successful operation, the permanent cattle auction has been pronounced a success.

Approximately \$120,000 has been paid for the 6,000 head of stock that have been sold in the big amphitheatre. Those figures do not include the horses, pigs, sheep, and goats that have been sold along with the cattle.

The \$25,000 building and cattle pens were finished and ready for the first sale June 10, 1938. On Friday of each week the totals go a little higher. Several local breeders joined to form a corporation, and success has crowned their organization from the start.

One of the finest features of this method of marketing is the fact that the little cowman can obtain the same price as the fellow with a big herd. Packinghouse buyers sit at their ease, judging the animals as they parade below, and it is just as easy for them to add one individual to the bunch they are purchasing as a whole penful. Quality is what they are after.

Moving pictures of the Kissemme auction have been taken to be shown at the coming World's Fair in New York among the Florida exhibits.

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO STOCKMEN

**Y**AVAPAI COUNTY (ARIZONA) cattle growers, 300 or 400 strong, met October 8 at their fifth annual calf sale, which is conducted to raise money for the American National Live Stock Association. Among the speakers at the affair were Bruce Brockett, of Rimrock; Jack Jamieson, of Oracle, chairman of the state agricultural conservation association; F. E. Mollin, secretary, American National Live Stock Association. Fifty calves were auctioned, given by the members of the Yavapai association. Total amount received at the auction exceeded \$1,350, to which would be added cash payments that some members prefer to make, thus insuring the usual substantial contribution to the American National even after expenses are deducted. The calves were bought by Al Levy, of Coalinga, California, with the exception of one purebred heifer calf from the Long Meadow Ranch, which was bought by Jim Carter, of Walnut Grove. Contributors of calves included Claude Aiken, Bruce Brockett, Coconino Cattle Company, J. O. Carter, Cort Carter, C. E. Chilson, George Converse, Fred Dugas, A. G. Dickison, Jerome O. Eddy, Evans and Laird, Fair and Hamilton, Favour and Perkins, Greene Cattle Company, Page and Gyberg, Jesse Goddard, O. P. Hallermund, Hays Cattle Company, H. I. Hanna, E. S. Hubbell, Stewart Hall, C. C. Jackson, Clifford Koontz, L. C. Lakin, Harry Henderson, Matt Lee, Joe Matli, Long Meadow Ranch, Viola McNeil, W. L. Mellon, C. H. Orme, John Osborne, Nelson Puntenney, R. E. Perkins, Chas. L. Rigden, Carl Rees, James Reeves, Ed and Em Ritter, Pearl Ritter, Grant B. Schley, Bud Stillman, John Stanley, Stewart Brothers, Two Bar Ranch, J. H. Wingfield, J. R. Williams, D. W. Wingfield, Barney York, and W. B. Young.

Executive committeemen of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, in their second quarterly meeting at Carlsbad on October 3, passed resolutions including a request for reduction in taxes "wherever and whenever possible;" certain modifications of BAI Order 327 (applying to imports from Mexico); meeting of interested groups to suggest amendments to state soil conservation law to "adapt same more suitably to New Mexico conditions;" approval of Forest Service program adopted at Denver in July (see August PRODUCER), with upper limit for New Mexico set at not less than 800 head.

Speakers at a meeting October 10 at Sheridan, Wyoming, of the Wyoming-Montana Live Stock Protective Association included J. Elmer Brock, first vice-president and chairman of the Legislative Committee of the American National Live Stock Association; Russell Thorp,

secretary-chief inspector of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association; and Ernest Spaeth, president of the state's Live Stock and Sanitary Board. The meeting entered into a general discussion of live-stock and land taxation, forest policies, wild-life and fishing legislation, calf plan (brand-a-calf) for the support of local, state, and national associations. A resolution was unanimously passed demanding a 100-foot right of way paralleling state highways for trailing stock. Officers of the association are: Lawrence Fuller, Manville Kendrick, and Owen Hoge, all of Sheridan, president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer, respectively.

Delegates to the convention of the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers, Milwaukee, recently, were introduced to the 1939 model hot dog—a streamlined wiener with a zipper. After heating the new type hot dog, which has square ends, the casing is removed by pulling a zipper.

Under a plan decided upon at the annual meeting of the El Paso County Live Stock Association at Colorado Springs, Colorado, members of that association hope to "get the rustler" by immediately notifying their secretary, who in turn will enlist the co-operation of the secretary of the state stock growers' association in broadcasting the facts of the case to peace officers, local brand inspectors, and inspectors at central markets. Another move to check the traffic in stolen live stock was the appointment of a theft committee and the award of from \$500 to \$1,000. Uniform bills of sale proposed by Dr. B. F. Davis, secretary of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, were endorsed. The meeting named Field Bohart, Jr., of Colorado Springs, president; Raymond W. Lewis, of Colorado Springs, vice-president; and William H. Paul, secretary-treasurer.

At a meeting of registered Hereford cattle breeders at Bozeman, Montana, held for the purpose of reorganizing the Montana Hereford Breeders' Association, Ralph Selkirk, of Fishdale, was named president; S. F. P. Foss, of Glen-

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# BLACKLEGOL

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November, 1938

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dive, vice-president; and Howard Ross and Myron Beatty, both of Bozeman, secretary and treasurer, respectively... First president of the newly formed **South Dakota Hereford Association** is Walter Bones, of Parker. Other officers are: vice-president, A. B. Tyler, Pierre; secretary-treasurer, F. U. Fenn, Brookings... Cowmen in Panola County, Texas, have organized for the development of purebred beef cattle, co-operation with peace officers to control cattle theft, and general purposes.

\* \* \*

A basis for continuing meat grading and inspection service in Seattle, Washington, was decided upon by the Seattle city council public safety committee recently following a public hearing. Various women's clubs and groups filed petitions protesting against a proposed discontinuance of meat grading, which they declared helpful to women shoppers. Cafe owners also opposed repeal of the meat law through their association which lodged a resolution with the council stating the "Members were originally active in behalf of the meat-grading ordinance due to the fact that comparatively few restaurant operators are capable of differentiating between various grades of meat before actual consumption, at which time it is too late to make exchanges or obtain refunds." The resolution declared that it is "necessary that means be provided for protecting the purchaser and the consumer. When meat is bought by a generally recognized grade, the consumer is assured that meat of any grade bought at any market regardless of time of year will possess essentially the same important characteristics."

\* \* \*

Governors of eight states agreed at a conference in Oklahoma City recently that states should not erect trade barriers at their boundary lines or enact laws interfering with free trade. States represented were Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas.

\* \* \*

Problems of conservation involved in the grazing of cattle and sheep on the public land in the West will be outlined in a series of lectures to be delivered at the University of Arizona, Tucson, during the week of November 12. A. D. Molohon, chief of range improvements, will conduct the lectures. Detailed discussions will be held on administrative problems confronting the Division of Grazing in seeking to preserve the forage and water resources of the range and promote standardization of the livestock industry.

\* \* \*

There are as many people employed in collecting, transporting, processing, etc., of farm products as there are farm people engaged in production, according to a study made by the National Association of Manufacturers.

## AMPLE SUPPLY OF FOOD CROPS, FEED AND FORAGE

**A** GENERALLY AMPLE TO ABUNDANT supply of food crops, feed and forage, as well as of cotton and tobacco, was reported October 1 by the federal crop reporting service.

The wheat crop, estimated at 940,229,000 bushels, will be the third largest. Total stocks of wheat on farms, including all the new crop that remains, are estimated at 407,000,000 bushels. The corn crop of 2,459,316,000 bushels is slightly above average.

As seen by the experts, prospects for the principal crops on October 1 were (000 omitted):

	1938 (Indicated)	1937 (Production)
Corn (bu.).....	2,459,316	2,644,995
Wheat, Wint. (bu.)	688,458	685,102
Wheat, Spg. (bu.)*	210,161	161,100
Oats (bu.).....	1,041,577	1,146,258
Barley (bu.).....	252,578	219,635
Rye (bu.).....	52,500	49,449
Grain Sorg. (bu.)....	111,278	97,097
Potatoes (bu.).....	373,275	393,289
Hay, Tame (tons)...	81,786	73,785
Hay, Wild (tons)....	10,490	9,302
Cotton (bales).....	12,212	18,946

\*Does not include Durum.

## ONE-SIXTH OF CROPLAND OUGHT NOT BE CULTIVATED

**C**ENSUS TAKERS LIST AS CROPLAND all the acres actually in production—415,000,000 acres in 1935. Soil specialists look at it differently. They say this includes a lot of land that ought not to be in crops—about 76,000,000 acres, or about one acre in six, they estimate. The remainder is about equally divided between land that is safe under cultivation and land that needs more protection, particularly against erosion, than it has been getting if it is to continue growing crops for future generations.

Bushrod W. Allin, discussing some of the fundamentals of land conservation policy in the current Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture, says that most of the 76,000,000 acres that ought not to be cropped are either too poor to support reasonable living standards or are so steep that protection from erosion costs too much to be practical.

About 161,000,000 acres, the soil students estimate, "can be cultivated indefinitely" without serious erosion injury. About 178,000,000 acres is eroding seriously, but this "can be controlled by practices that have been demonstrated to be economically feasible by owner operators."

Putting out of cultivation the 76,000,000 acres of the poorest lands now cropped—lands that might better be used for forests, grasslands, wildlife, or recreation—need not reduce the total area in crops except as this seems desirable, for the soil men also note, says Mr. Allin, that there are 108,000,000

acres of land not now cropped—mainly pastures, brush, or timber—which are better than the poorest now in cultivation. This land has better soils and gentler slopes and could be put under the plough with a better chance for farmers to make a reasonable living from crop production.

## WIRES INSERTED IN CATTLE HIDES

**T**HE TANNERS' COUNCIL OF America reports extensive damage to cattle hides by the practice in certain localities of inserting wires or rings in the hides of the live animals while on the farms or ranches.

In a letter to H. R. Smith, general manager of the National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board, the Tanners' Council tells about a wire so inserted that it escaped attention of the tannery beamhouse workers. "It went through the unhairing machine and caused the circular blades on the cylinder to become nicked, thereby causing a \$200 cylinder to become badly damaged. The worst damage, however, was incurred after this wire passed by the cylinder unnoticed by the operator. The nicked blades clipped the grain on some 300 hides which followed through the machine, causing the leather therefrom to be thrown down into the reject selection."

The packers remove these wires at the time of slaughter when they can be detected, but occasionally they are overlooked.

What is the purpose of these wires, the letter asks.

## CALENDAR

- Oct. 31—WHR Hereford Sale, Cheyenne, Wyo.
- Nov. 16-24—Session National Grange, Portland, Ore.
- Nov. 20-25—Great Western Live Stock Show, Los Angeles, Cal.
- Nov. 26-Dec. 3—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago.
- Dec. 8-9—Convention Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Ass'n, San Antonio.
- Dec. 9-10—Convention California Cattlemen's Ass'n, San Francisco.
- Jan. 24-26—Convention National Wool Growers' Ass'n, San Angelo, Tex.
- Jan. 28-Feb. 4—National Western Stock Show, Denver.
- Feb. 7-14—Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.
- Feb. 15-17—Convention American National Live Stock Ass'n, San Francisco.
- Feb. 18-28—Golden Gate International Exposition Beef Cattle Show, San Francisco.
- Feb. 25-Mar. 5—Houston Fat Stock Show, Houston, Tex.



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Vol. XX NOVEMBER, 1938 No. 6

### TAYLOR ACT ADJUSTMENTS

**A**NNOUNCEMENT ELSEWHERE IN this issue that Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes has withdrawn nearly 1,000,000 acres of land in isolated tracts in Colorado from grazing under current permits and that similar tracts will be withdrawn from other grazing districts in the remaining public land states as rapidly as classification of areas can be completed is of more than passing interest. Present users are told that hereafter they must lease the land in question and must apply to the register of the district land office for leases under Section 15 of the Taylor act.

In the first flush of enthusiasm after passage of the Taylor law every effort was made to include in the grazing districts rapidly being set up as much of the public domain as possible. Section 15 was put aside, and it was some time before attention was given to the leasing of isolated tracts, even those outside the many grazing districts established. Now it appears that the inclusion of isolated tracts in large and unwieldy districts is a detriment, rather than an aid, to successful administration.

Thus the trial and error method comes into play, and the frank announcement that it has been deemed the part of wisdom to exclude these lands from grazing districts and handle them under Section 15 will be commended on all sides. Furthermore, it may also facilitate the passing into private ownership of many of such isolated tracts under Section 14 of the act.

It is too early to appraise with any degree of accuracy the results so far obtained under the administration of this important law. At least the department has not hesitated to act promptly and courageously in trying to

meet an admittedly difficult situation. It may be that time will indicate need for amendments to the act, and when that time comes the live-stock industry will co-operate to the best possible advantage.

While it has been a physical impossibility to grant in full to each applicant the range rights he would like to have, the absence of strong criticism of the administration to date at least gives evidence of a sincere effort to treat fairly the many conflicting interests involved. Few, even of those dissatisfied with the allotments, would contend that a better job could have been done in so short a time.

### BASEBALL AND BUSINESS

**W**HILE YOU WERE LISTENING to the ball games last month, did it occur to you by any chance that baseball boosts your business? It does, and here are the figures to prove it, taken from *Omaha Daily Journal-Stockman*:

Last year more than 1,000,000 square feet of cowhide were used to make baseball mitts, and great quantities of leather went into the manufacture of baseball shoes. Seven hundred and fifty thousand pounds of worsted yarn were used in the making of baseballs.

The other sports, too, play a rather important and desirable part in the live-stock business. Hides of more than 100,000 cattle were required last year for football helmets, inflated balls, golf bags, and the like. The athletic industry patronized the live-stock farmer, indirectly, to the extent of purchasing 500,000 square feet of strap leather for footballs, soccer balls, and mitts.

A sizeable quantity of sheep and lamb skins, more than 100,000, went into the manufacture of boxing gloves, punching bags, and the like. Tennis players were good patrons of the sheep industry, for eleven lambs are needed to supply the gut for each good tennis racket. Curled hair, glue, hog skins, and calfskins were also used extensively by the sporting goods industry.

Baseball and business—two important phases of an American's life, and at least for the live-stock industry, baseball is good business.

### SO FAR NOT SO GOOD

**F**ROM EVERY SIDE COMES WORD that the farmers are in revolt at the failure of the current AAA program either to control production or to maintain price, twin objects of the act, masquerading as a conservation measure.

Suits have been filed by tobacco farmers to test the constitutionality of the drastic acreage control provisions; the cotton situation is becoming increasingly acute, with a larger crop than anticipated and a burdensome carryover from the record yield of 1937; in the Wheat Belt the new acreage allotments are so

small in many areas as practically to close out operations of some unlucky farmers; and a referendum for corn marketing quotas was, some reports have it, avoided this fall only by sharpening the pencil on estimates.

The bumper crops of 1937 and 1938 are commonly referred to as the basic cause of the present disastrous situation, with prices on a ruinously low level. Obviously that is not the real trouble. If the weatherman has erred, it is on the side of the AAA. The average production for the five-year period 1934-38 is far below normal. Certainly there is something fundamentally wrong with a program which is successful only in years of extreme drought such as 1934 and 1936. Already, with only two fair crop years, 1937 and 1938, and even then drought conditions continuing immediately west of the Missouri River, the losses incurred and the muddle ensuing makes the noble experiment of the Federal Farm Board look both inexpensive and successful by way of comparison.

Thoughtful people are recalling that in the early days of the original AAA there arose a severe dispute over policy. On the one hand, George Peek, first administrator of the AAA, advocated more attention to the problem of distribution and a sane policy of reciprocal trade—in fact, not in name only—on the other, Secretary Wallace, insisted on production control as the major implement. His views prevailed, and Mr. Peek, at odds with that policy and with the free-trade ambitions of Secretary Hull, but right in each instance, was forced to walk the plank.

Now, Secretary Wallace cannot but admit failure to reach the objective to date. He still clings stubbornly, however, to the idea that production control must be the base of any program devised, but concedes that something may have to be done to facilitate distribution. His latest suggestion is for a government subsidy to move more surplus agricultural products into consumption by consumers of low purchasing power. This merely would extend the activities of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, and would fail completely to reach the heart of the problem. Also he suggests re-enactment of the processing taxes so that bigger benefit payments can be made to producers for acreage restrictions.

Strong sentiment is building in agricultural circles for scrapping the present program and replacing it with a domestic allotment plan of control. No doubt the group of so-called farm leaders who were the authors of the present act will oppose such shift, but they stand discredited by the result of their experiment. Actual farmers and their friends are apt to have more to say from here on out.

Certainly the domestic allotment plan could not make a more dismal flop than

the present one. Contrary to predictions that it would increase production and further aggravate a bad situation, it would appear that just the reverse would be true. The present program has not controlled production. The AAA has paid for a reduction which has not materialized. What good is it to restrict acreage if that does not hold down production. Actually, under the present plan, producers have felt obliged to produce as much as possible on the remaining acres. By better farming practices, increased use of fertilizer, better seed corn, use of only the best acres, etc., results would indicate that they have succeeded too well for the common good.

If acreage restrictions were removed,

the urge for heavy yield per acre would disappear. There would be a return to normal production practices. Gradually a normal balance in the nation's agriculture would be restored as compared with the present dislocation necessarily incident to attempted arbitrary control.

At any rate, probably any turn would be for the better. Once the problem of distribution gets attention, even though in a limited way at first, we shall be heading back toward safer ground. It is evident that farmers do not like arbitrary control, and unwilling co-operators seldom make for success in the long pull. It would seem the part of wisdom to recognize that fact and to do the next best thing before it is too late.

## BRITISH PACT HITS SNAG

FOR WEEKS PAST WASHINGTON bulletins of various kinds, mostly unofficial, have suggested that the British and Canadian trade agreements were all but in the bag and that definite announcement of the terms could be expected any time. It has been hinted that these two agreements were more or less in the nature of a three-cornered affair, the trading in the British agreement and the concessions allowed Uncle Sam therein being somewhat contingent on the concessions allowed by Uncle Sam in the Canadian agreement. This, however, was denied officially last winter in Washington when the announcement of the plan to negotiate the British agreement and to reopen negotiations with Canada came almost simultaneously.

We quote from a report in an *Associated Press* dispatch dated Washington October 20:

"The U. S. government has given Great Britain to understand, it was reported reliably tonight, that she must grant substantial concessions on certain American products or see negotiations for the vaunted Anglo-American trade treaty fall through. The State Department was said to be insisting upon a substantial rather than a superficial agreement. . . . The products causing trouble are automobiles, hams, lard, and bacon. . . . The American negotiators are said to feel that they have made all the concessions they can. They say that the minimum of concessions for British products has been raised several times. They add they entered into discussions with the intention of reaching an agreement embracing substantial concessions on both sides [emphasis ours]. The United States has already made substantial concessions, they say, but these have not yet been balanced by sufficient concessions from the other side."

It would appear from the foregoing that Uncle Sam's traders have been out-traded, as usual. It is amazing that at this late stage of the proceedings, when announcement of the final decision is expected momentarily and has been for weeks past, they are just beginning to insist upon substantial concessions on pork products. This was supposed to be one of the main incentives on our side for going into the agreement and was proclaimed as balancing for American agriculture some of the concessions that had been demanded of it in other agreements.

Of course, Uncle Sam can make trade agreements so long as he is willing to give away American markets. But he has not been so successful when it comes to getting something in return for these gifts, and it would appear that American agriculture, which has been pinning its hopes on the British agreement for the solving of some of our acute domestic farm problems, may again be left holding the bag.

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# GOVERNMENT

## WASHINGTON NOTES

**P**ossible feasibility of fixing of prices on agricultural products has been expressed by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, under the wave of sentiment against present low prices and complications of the farm act. He has spoken of a plan whereby the government might buy co-operators' allotted wheat yields at a fixed price, a certain portion of which production to be made available for domestic consumption at the price the government paid, with a tax on non-co-operator's product high enough to rob it of competitive price advantage. However, the secretary does not propose the plan. Instead, to make the present program more attractive, he has suggested processing taxes, so that benefit payments can be made self-financing; simplification of the existing program, so that its requirements can be more easily understood by farmers; maintaining a certain part of the world market for American farmers; continued but improved use of price stabilizing loans; and subsidization of the consumption of cotton and possibly other products.

Suggested changes in the Social Security Act include widening the old-age pension plan to cover 16,000,000 agricultural, domestic, and other workers not now included; lowering eligibility age from sixty-five to sixty years; increasing federal contributions for old-age pension payments and for indigent children; and speeding up payments which are not scheduled to begin until 1942. . . . Interest in bigger and better pensions is rife. California with its "\$30 every Thursday" does not stand alone. Surprisingly, Maine went on record in favor of the Townsend Plan at the recent election. Senator Pepper, of Florida, owes his renomination in part at least to the support of the followers of Dr. Townsend. Results in various other states showed similar trends.

Major changes in the structure of the Department of Agriculture: Bureau of Agricultural Economics broadened to include forming of programs for general farm planning, conservation, and marketing problems, with H. R. Tolley, agricultural adjustment administrator, as head. New adjustment administrator is R. M. Evans, formerly assistant to Secretary Wallace. Dr. A. G. Black, formerly head of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, was made chief of a new bureau directing marketing and regulatory work—an agency to co-ordinate work of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, marketing agreements, the sugar act, and the commodity exchange act. H. G. Knight, for-

merly chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, director of research work in the field of agricultural and industrial technology. Agricultural marketing research and statistical activities, formerly carried on by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is directed by a new agency headed by C. W. Kitchen, formerly assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Other changes involved: Jesse W. Tapp, formerly assistant AAA administrator, in charge of surplus commodity diversion and marketing agreements program; land-use programs for farms were consolidated under H. H. Bennett, chief of the Soil Conservation Service. The changes are designed in the interest of efficiency.

American wheat exports between July 1 and September 30 totaled 31,000,000 bushels—nearly one-third of the 100,000,000 bushels the government expects to have exported during the year ending July 1, 1939. From the latter part of August, when the wheat export program began, through September 30 the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation bought 15,657,645 bushels of wheat and sold 11,504,580 bushels. . . . The Mexican government agreed to buy more than 3,000,000 bushels of wheat under the American subsidy plan.

The five-year-old Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation purchased during the fiscal year July 1, 1937, to June 30, 1938, 1,800,000,000 pounds of foodstuffs at a total cost of \$48,400,000, the corporation's annual report discloses. Purchases were made in forty-six states and foodstuffs distributed for relief use in all states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. Estimated retail value of the commodities distributed was \$62,210,000. . . . The FSCC is now buying a part of the big 1937 corn crop surplus.

More than \$100,000,000 of new business has been recorded by the Federal Housing Administration since the amended housing act was signed by President Roosevelt on February 3. Under this legislation the government will insure up to 90 per cent the mortgages on homes costing \$6,000 or less. . . . The 1939 aid program for the dust bowl includes planting of vast tracts of abandoned land to prevent blowing. Previous dust bowl projects have been concentrated on improving active farm land.

Cotton states are demanding a boost in the government cotton loan rate from the minimum legal figure of 8 cents a pound, which is the present rate, to the highest legal figure of 11.9 cents a pound. . . . At least 57 cents and perhaps 61 cents is indicated as the 1938

corn loan rate. . . . Farmers who borrowed 50 cents a bushel from the Commodity Credit Corporation on corn sealed and stored on their farms may now buy the same back at the prevailing price. New rules permit resealing at the new loan price, turning the corn over to the Commodity Credit Corporation in settlement of the 50-cent loan, or the paying off of the loan.

Interest rates paid by Colorado co-operatives are at the lowest levels on record, according to officials of the Wichita Bank for Co-operatives, one of the units of the Farm Credit Administration. Average interest rate paid by Colorado farmer co-operatives on medium-term loans has dropped from 6.7 per cent to 4.9 per cent, and on long-term loans from 5.5 per cent to 5.4 per cent. Seven thousand six hundred of the co-operative associations and mutual companies, or approximately half of those in the United States, use credit in their operations. Banks for co-operatives make three types of loans to farmer co-ops: a commodity loan, based on warehouse receipts of commodities in storage, at 2 per cent interest; a working capital loan at 3 per cent interest; and a facility loan for long terms at 4 per cent interest.

The Soil Conservation Service, announces the Department of Agriculture, is setting up water facility regions in seventeen western states in co-operation with state officials. Congress provided \$500,000 for use in states as loans in building small dams, water-pumping projects, and other domestic and livestock water facilities during this fiscal year. The Farm Security Administration recently decided to spend \$5,000,000 for a similar purpose, but only on farms where rehabilitation work is necessary.

A highlight in the hearings before President Roosevelt's special fact-finding board to inquire into the controversy over the proposed 15 per cent wage cut was a program presented by George M. Harrison, president of the Association of American Railway Labor Executives, calling for "an attack on the problem of competition, a rate policy taking into consideration both good and bad times, financial reorganization, and consolidation."

## FIXING TO FIT UP THE FARM ACT

BY J. E. POOLE

**A**LTHOUGH THE FARM PROBLEM is well to the forefront in a political campaign that will be history soon after this is in print, actual consideration will be deferred until the Seventy-sixth Congress assembles. Secretary Wallace is drawing crowds, as usual, throughout the corn and wheat belts. His keynote

talk at Springfield, Illinois, was prognostic of legislation, provided Congress assents. At that gathering the secretary attributed the new depression to the Supreme Court decision on the first AAA piling up crop surpluses and pulling prices down, involving other elements of the population. As that decision mainly affected a hog processing tax, it is necessary to indulge in imagination distortion to convince that loss of a tax of \$2 on hogs, acclaimed by 90 per cent of growers, precipitated a slump. However, Mr. Wallace consoled farmers by stating that farm buying power had decreased only 9 per cent.

#### Government Rations

Explaining how the new program may work, the secretary outlined a divided market system by which the indigent element will purchase below cost, government money taking up the loss. Commodities for which demand is elastic will be embraced. He showed pronounced antagonism to a proposed price-fixing, domestic farm allotment program, by which farmers would be guaranteed cost of production plus a stipend for that part of their produce entering domestic consumption, disposing of the remainder at the world price. The proposition to experiment with the wholesale subsidization of a wide range of farm commodities for consumption by low-income people is a new and radical departure, designed to put a considerable element of the population on part government rations. This is actually taking place in a \$20,000,000 distribution of clothing, advertised to aid wool growers, but actually relieving manufacturers of surplus stocks. Carried to its logical end, shoes, motor cars, and even whiskey might be similarly treated when surpluses develop, as frequently happens. Manufacturers would then keep pay rolls at full strength in confidence that Uncle Sam would foot the bill.

#### Tariff Wipe-Out

An Illinois candidate for United States senator is seeking election on a tariff wipe-out platform. His name is Lucas, the regular Democratic nominee. Farmers have lost foreign markets because tariff walls excluded foreign farm products from this market, he contends. A more sensible proposition made by his opponent aims at exclusion of molasses, which displaces corn in distilling processes.

And so we sweep on to grand delusions. It is a farrago of absurdity, demonstrating the extremes to which politicians and pseudo-economists can go, incidentally heralding what is ahead when Congress gets down to the job of taking kinks out of the farm muddle.

#### Alternatives

Suggestively, Mr. Wallace names four alternatives:

Continuance of the present program strengthened by processing taxes.

Government fixing of farm prices.

Establishment of a government monopoly of agriculture providing for stricter control of production and marketing.

Abandonment of all programs for "cutthroat competition and return to conditions of 1932."

#### Slicing 'Em Thin

Restaurateurs, in national convention assembled at Chicago recently, seriously considered the problem of skimping on meat portions. In current reports, President Cabell of Armour and Company was quoted as expressing approval. Herbert Hoover started this during war days. The electric slicer has made it possible. At every conclave of public eating-house operators or meat retailers, the theme crops out. Recently the writer witnessed an expert knif juggler dissect a "sirloin butt" of beef to such minute proportions as to resemble a postal card. Spreading the resultant scraps of red meat over a tableful of platters with the air of a man satisfied with having done a good job, he said: "That's the way to make a little meat go a long way." "What about customer kicks?" he was asked. "Give 'em another piece," he advised.

#### Cheating

AAA officials are audibly resentful of cheating by farm program compliers, and they are right. Cheating is humanly natural. Down in a Pennsylvania wheat-growing county, several hundred farmers after signing up the wheat program planted one-third more than legal restrictions, creating a pre-harvest complication. A modern Solomon was sent from Washington to straighten out the mess, deciding that the surplus grain and straw must be utilized solely for bedding. Satisfaction ensued; poultry was bedded with it.

#### Strikes

Live-stock feeders are feeling effects of strikes in packing-houses and stockyards. On Monday, October 17, hay wagon crews quit after the run had been yarded, refusing to deliver feed until demands had been met. Previously a



hog butchers' strike under CIO auspices in five Chicago plants broke hog prices \$1 per cwt. all over the United States, Chicago being the basing point, elimination of that competition costing hog growers \$500,000 before employers came across.

#### Imports

Imports of live stock and meat continue in substantial volume, although of somewhat less poundage than last year. During the eight-month period January to August this year, 52,064,000 pounds of canned beef entered this market, compared with 59,906,000 pounds in 1937; of pork, 37,120,000 pounds, compared with 52,715,000 pounds last year. The question arises as to why these importations are possible.

#### Texas Advertises

Texas sheepmen are contributing to a lamb-advertising fund. The broadcast could be profitably restricted to Texas, where lamb is practically an unknown dish. Measured by production, no state eats less. An average Texan will assert that it is not to be procured in hotels, restaurants, or meat markets, which is actually the case based on the writer's experience and observation. Even in the sheep-growing sections, beef and pork are the principal gastronomic stand-bys.

## FACTS ON GOVERNMENT MEAT GRADING

WHEN THE NEW YORK COUNCIL recently considered an ordinance to make mandatory the quality grading of beef, lamb, and mutton, a representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics gave to that body a statement covering the subject of meat grading.

Some of the facts contained in that statement, as rewritten in question-and-answer form in *Consumers' Guide*, are given below:

Q. When did the bureau first begin to offer a grading service?

A. Prior to the establishment of a grading service the Department of Agriculture was authorized by Congress to acquire and diffuse useful information on the grading and marketing of farm products.

In 1916 Congress authorized the department to investigate and report market conditions and prices for live stock and meats by grades.

Later Congress authorized the department to conduct a grading service. Specifically Congress authorized the department to "investigate and certify to shippers and other interested parties, the class, quality, and condition of perishable farm products" and to "promote the use of uniform standards of classification. . . ."

Q. Of what advantage are grades to consumers?

A. They protect consumers against misrepresentation of quality.

They enable consumers to buy the

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most economical meat that suits their purposes.

They enable consumers to make intelligent price comparisons.

They are an assurance to consumers they are purchasing the quality of meat that they want.

Q. In what form are the results of a grading service shown?

A. Meat is stamped the whole length of the carcass with harmless purple vegetable ink. But in addition the owner of the meat is issued an official certificate.

Q. What interest do consumers have in these certificates?

A. None. Certificates are used in the marketing of live stock and meats before they reach the consumer.

Q. When did grading and stamping of beef for consumer information begin?

A. In 1927 this service was inaugurated on an experimental basis.

Q. Who requested this service?

A. The Better Beef Association—an association of live-stock producers.

Q. Why?

A. The cattlemen believed that grading and branding the better grades of beef would stimulate consumer demand for better quality beef; at the same time, the stamps protected consumers against deception and substitution.

Q. Was this experimental period successful?

A. Yes, after a one-year experimental and demonstration period in which meats were graded free of charge, grading was placed upon a permanent self-supporting basis. This was in July of 1928.

Q. How was it made self-supporting?

A. The service of a U. S. meat grader was offered to all financially interested parties in certain designated markets at \$2 an hour for the time actually used in grading.

Q. Did the switch from a free basis to a paid basis affect the volume of meat grading?

A. On the contrary, the service grew until, ten years after the service was placed on a voluntary fee basis, it was grading sixteen times as much meat as on the old free basis.

Q. When the service was launched, did the department simply promulgate the grades and standards?

A. Absolutely not. When the grades were prepared, drafts of grade descriptions were sent to retailers, packers, wholesalers, live-stock interests, and to everyone else who displayed an interest in meat grades. The grades took into account principles and practices employed in the trade and they included the customary trade terms that were understood nationally.

Q. How wide is the quality range within a grade?

A. To be practical, a grade must not contain too great a quality range. It is believed present grades meet this practical requirement. It is possible, however, to establish subdivisions if this should ever become necessary.

Q. How wide are price ranges within grades?

A. Since there is a small range in quality within a grade, there is some-

times a small price range within a grade. It is very narrow, however, and for the most part meats of the same grade in the same locality, marketed in similar ways, will sell for the same price.

Q. Is there any check on the grading done by meat graders?

A. Within the Bureau of Agricultural Economics the work of the federal meat graders is constantly checked by the general supervisor in charge of the meat grading station. In addition there is a grading supervisor at each market where more than one grader is employed, and he is responsible directly to the Washington office. He not only grades but works as a check or test grader. It is his responsibility to review the work of the grader, to interpret and supervise the application of federal meat standards.

Q. Is there any other check outside the meat grading service?

A. Yes, graded meat is constantly being shipped from the point of origin to markets. Where the grading is improper, naturally the purchaser at the point of delivery will protest, since the price he pays for meat is based upon the official U. S. grade.

Q. How can a meat dealer appeal for regrading?

A. Anyone having a financial interest in federally graded meats may appeal for regrading.

Q. Do the number of appeals indicate that there is general satisfaction with the meat grading service?

A. From July 1, 1937, to May 31, 1938, only 113,000 pounds of graded beef were appealed for regrading. This amounted to only one-third of 1 per cent of the total amount of beef graded.

Q. How much does it cost to grade beef per pound?

A. An average of about one-fiftieth of a cent per pound.

Q. Does grading meat as medium,

plain, cutter, low cutter, or cull, kill the market for that meat?

A. Not at all. The demand for the grading and stamping of medium grade beef has increased during the last few years. In Seattle, where compulsory grading has been in effect since 1934, meats are regularly sold under these grade names.

Q. How many applicants are there for the voluntary grading of meats?

A. Grading service for large wholesale quantities of meat are regularly furnished to more than 500 applicants throughout the United States.

Q. Do concerns that use the grading service continue it?

A. The history of the service in general has been that those who try it continue to use it.

Q. What cities have passed ordinances requiring the grading of meat?

A. Schenectady, New York, and Seattle, Washington.

Q. Has grading been successful in these two cities?

A. The requirement that only graded meats be sold has been decidedly satisfactory in Seattle and still continues. In Schenectady the plan has been abandoned.

Q. Was there any difference in the way meat grading was undertaken in these two cities?

A. Yes. In Seattle meat grading is done by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics with the help of three assistants furnished by the city. The city in this instance is in the same position as any other voluntary applicant for the meat grading service. In Schenectady the city selected its own meat graders and the work had only the occasional supervision of the bureau.

Q. How is compulsory meat grading regarded in Seattle?

A. Practically all hotel and restaurant operators are in favor of the ordinance,

## There Isn't a More Effective Method

In the Marketing of Live Stock  
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and most dealers and consumers are reported to favor it.

Q. Has compulsory meat grading in Seattle had any effect on prices there?

A. Bureau of Agricultural Economics' records of prices by grades in Seattle do not show that any class or grade of beef or lamb has been adversely affected because of grading.

## LAND OFFICE AND GRAZING DIVISION TOPICS

**H**IGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL report of Grazing Director F. R. Carpenter: Taylor act grazing licenses were issued to 18,752 stockmen owning 9,050,771 head of live stock during the 1938 fiscal year; expected that during coming year temporary licenses will be replaced by ten-year term permits in one grazing district in each of the ten states, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming; reserved for the protection of the deer, antelope, and other wild animals and game birds are 8,000,000 acres of land within the boundaries of grazing districts; entire public range, about 120,000,000 acres, being surveyed, classified, and mapped for proper use and rehabilitation, and more than 20,000 private properties dependent on federal range facilities being appraised; in Oregon, about 500 unclaimed wild horses were removed from grazing districts after being rounded up on the range by airplane; 50,000 sheep and 10,000 cattle were eliminated from the public range in Wyoming to prevent overgrazing without any of the affected stock growers requesting a hearing on his case, the report declares.

\* \* \*

New methods of conservation being tried out in an isolated area more than 100 miles from the nearest railroad may point the way to a broad program for rehabilitation of forage facilities on federal range land, it is indicated in reports submitted to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by Director F. R. Carpenter of the Division of Grazing. Utah Grazing District 8 is serving as the testing ground. One of the features of the program which might be adaptable to some, although not all, of the other federal grazing districts contemplates increased use of surrounding farm land or ranches for production of corn for stock feeding. Reseeding of range lands badly depleted through years of hard usage forms another item in the co-operative conservation plan.

\* \* \*

The most comprehensive inventory in recent years of the nation's public land areas estimated at 750,000,000 acres in the United States and Alaska is being taken by the General Land Office, it is revealed in the annual report of Commissioner Fred W. Johnson. The report

also reveals that the General Land Office was one of the few agencies in the federal establishment which conducted operations at a profit to the taxpayer during the fiscal year. Cash receipts totaled \$8,447,347.97, as compared with expenditures for conduct of the office of \$1,821,681. Complete reversal of policy within the General Land Office has been brought about by the national program for conservation of natural resources, it is pointed out. Before 1934 the work consisted mainly in disposing of and recording transfers of available tracts of public land. Following enactment of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, no allocation of the public domain may now be made until after scientific classification. "This classification work is being kept abreast of current demands, and in addition, on June 1, 1938, each register was called upon to report by counties and townships the area of unappropriated and unreserved public lands within his land district."

\* \* \*

Nearly 1,000,000 acres of isolated land in Colorado have been withdrawn by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes from grazing under permits. Users hereafter must lease the land under the leasing provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act. Similar tracts of isolated grazing areas will be withdrawn from other grazing districts in various western states. Purpose of the change is greater efficiency in the supervision of grazing operations and improved administrative procedure through elimination from the grazing districts of scattered isolated tracts hard to handle under the present set-up.

\* \* \*

Earmarked for payment to states from revenues received at the General Land Office through mineral lease laws and Taylor Grazing Act operations totaled during the 1938 fiscal year \$3,064,618.38. Thirty-seven and one-half per cent of proceeds from mineral leasing and 50 per cent of money received from grazing is directed by law to be turned over to states for road construction and maintenance, schools, and other public improvements.

## WOOL GROWERS RECOMMEND CHANGES IN RANGE CODE

**T**HE CODE GOVERNING GRANTING of licenses and permits under the Taylor Grazing Act (see April, 1938, PRODUCER) should be changed in the following manner, recommends the National Wool Growers' Association:

1. By striking out in paragraph (a) of Section 1 the statement that all licensees or permittees would be required to show possession of sufficient land, water, or feed to insure year-round operations. It was the feeling of the committee that it would be fair to relate property re-

quirements for licenses solely to the public domain. There was no disposition to alter the present set-up requiring applicants to show possession or control of sufficient land or feed to make themselves commensurate in accordance with the property holdings of the majority of applicants in the same district.

2. Elimination of existing definition of "land dependent by location" as set up in paragraph (h) of Section 2. In view of the ground covered by the existing definition of "land dependent by use," it was felt that there was no real need for an additional definition setting up dependency through location.

3. Change in present three classes in which applicants are described to make Class 1 consist of owners of forage land dependent by customary use and full-time prior water, and placing of other classes of applicants in Class 2.

4. That free-use licenses or permits for settlers be issued for not to exceed ten head of work or milk stock kept for domestic purposes, to be grazed on federal range adjacent to or in the immediate neighborhood of the licensee's or permittee's property.

5. That holder of license have option of transferring his license with sale of live stock in cases in which buyer has necessary property qualifications. This would enable those desiring to retire from the business to sell their stock without compelling a buyer also to take their land, and would be in line with Forest Service policy. The seller would of course hold no rights to a grazing license afterward.

6. That nonuse licenses or permits be issued only when range is available and for only two years. If a licensee prefers, he would be allowed to hold his license for a third year upon payment of fees for that year and with the approval of the grazier in charge.

## PREDATORY ANIMAL CATCH GROWING YEARLY

**C**O-OPERATIVE PREDATORY ANIMAL control projects of the Biological Survey took 94,040 predatory animals during the fiscal year 1938, according to Stanley P. Young, chief of the Division of Predator and Rodent Control.

The Survey's control projects, which are conducted in co-operation with states, counties, live-stock associations, and individual stockmen, in the previous fiscal year (July 1, 1936, to June 30, 1937) accounted for 89,289 predatory animals; in the fiscal year before that, 73,127 animals.

The following tabulation gives the above catches by species of animals taken:

	1938	1937	1936
Coyotes .....	84,844	80,299	64,566
Bobcats and Lynxes.....	7,189	7,472	6,986
Wolves .....	1,360	1,007	1,115
Mountain Lions .....	255	212	278
Predatory Bears ..	392	299	173

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



## STOCKER AND FEEDER RATE QUESTION UP FOR HEARING

HEARINGS ON THE SHIPPERS' side of the 85 per cent stocker and feeder rate case are being held this month in Fort Worth, Texas (November 1), and Kansas City, Missouri (November 7), at which members of the American National Live Stock Association are being represented by Traffic Counsel Charles E. Blaine and Secretary F. E. Mollin. Objection is being made to restrictions in the rail lines' proposals.

The railroads' proposals were presented at a hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission in Chicago on September 26. First hearing of shipper interests was at Salt Lake City, Utah, on October 24, at which Mr. Blaine, Mr. Mollin, and Hubbard Russell, president of the national cattle association, together with a number of shipper witnesses, appeared.

The proposal of the railroads calls for amended tariffs that would cancel all reference to stocker and feeder live stock and the rates now in effect thereon and eliminate the lower minimum weight applicable on stocker and feeder animals in certain parts of the West.

The rail lines would establish new rules which would readjust to the basis of approximately 85 per cent the charges paid to the first destination, if the live stock is subsequently reshipped by rail to a second destination, subject to the provisions:

That shipment to second destination is within a year but not less than thirty days from date of first shipment;

That no substitution of live stock will be permitted—hence, it will be necessary for producers to maintain identity of live stock covered by each freight bill or identity of stock moving under the same rates;

That readjustment will be made upon presentation of original paid freight bill covering first shipment, copy of live-stock contract showing evidence of re-shipment by rail, and certificate accompanying paid freight bill signed by consignee or agent, or, in case of change of ownership, by new owner or agent, the certificate providing that none of the live stock "is for dairy uses, or has been slaughtered or disposed of;"

That no readjustment will be made on live stock accorded feeding, fattening, or grazing-in-transit privileges between origin point and first destination;

That shipment from first destination to second must be reloaded at first destination unloading point;

That refund will be made on basis of weight at first shipment but not to exceed weight of stock in reshipment;

That readjustment will be made only when the reshipped live stock is of the same species as original shipment, except that when first shipment consists of calves, shipment to the second destination may consist of calves and cattle;

That freight bills covering inbound movement to first destination from one rate point will not be accepted for refund when live stock reshipped in outbound car from first destination originated at a lower rate point or did not reach first destination by rail from a point outside switching limits of first destination;

That claimants keep proper records for inspection;

That the term "first destination" means destination of shipment covered by freight bill on which readjustment of charges is made, regardless of whether or not there has been a previous rail movement of same stock.

It was developed at the hearing at Chicago that if the proposal is approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission it is the purpose of the rail lines to procure from the various state regulatory bodies similar rates and rules for application to intrastate traffic.

At the request of the American National Live Stock Association and other shipper organizations, the Interstate Commerce Commission has ordered suspension of tariffs filed to become effective October 15 which carried increases in the rates on stocker and feeder live stock from points in the western district to points east of the Mississippi River.

## GOVERNMENT REPORT POINTS TO LESS LAMB FEEDING

THE NUMBER OF LAMBS TO BE fed during the 1938-39 season is rather uncertain, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Shipments of feeder lambs into the Corn Belt to the end of September and reports from western states point to some decrease.

Most lamb feeders in the 1937-38

season experienced rather heavy losses, and in the past the volume of feeding has usually been reduced in a season following one when returns from feeding operations were unfavorable. On the other hand, feed is generally more abundant this year and prices lower. Also, feeder lamb prices are mostly below those of a year ago and are low relative to prices of feeder cattle, and the numbers of lambs available is larger.

An important factor will be the disposition made of the many feeding lambs in Texas, where shipments (mostly feeder lambs) billed to points outside the state other than stockyards in July and August were larger this year than last. September shipments also have been larger, but apparently considerably more feeder lambs remained in the state on October 1 than a year earlier.

Feeder lamb shipments from stockyard markets into the Corn Belt in the July-September period were a little smaller this year; into the states east of the Mississippi River, much smaller; into the states west of the Mississippi, slightly larger. Direct shipments were on a somewhat smaller scale.

Some decrease in the volume of feeding in the western states is expected. California is the only important lamb-feeding state in the western region where some increase in feeding seemed likely. However, there may be a rather heavy movement of feeder lambs to wheat pastures in the southern Great Plains, especially in Kansas. If growing conditions are favorable for wheat pastures during October, sheep raisers in Texas and in the western range states may decide to ship their lambs for finishing on these pastures rather than to sell at present prices. A heavy movement of this kind might offset a considerable reduction in grain feeding in both the Corn Belt and western states.

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# MARKETS

## AGRICULTURAL SLUMP SPARES CATTLE

BY JAMES E. POOLE

**L**AST YEAR'S BIRD'S NEST COMMANDS the same human interest as a rehash of recent live-stock market events—an oft-told tale. However, a brief recapitulation may not be unpalatable reading. Cattle prices have been surprisingly well maintained in view of a vicious slump in all other agricultural commodity values, burlesquing the "parity" phantasy. The hog market is being "adjusted," which is synonymous with depreciation, and a summer-long demoralized live-mutton market is working out of a slough of despondency.

This paragraph tells the story sentimentously. Verbiage is superfluous. Low-cost feed, a veritable nightmare with the agrarian Messiahs, has swelled beef- and pork-makers' wallets to plethoric dimensions. A \$15 to \$19.50 cattle market late in 1937 did not yield feeders as much net mazuma as a \$12 to \$13.50 trade on this occasion. However, the few steers appraised in this price range are not alone responsible for lucrative returns, as maximum profits resulted from quick turnovers, warmed-up steers selling at \$9.50 to \$11.50, heifers at \$8.50 to \$9.75 figuring as the real McCoy. Finished cattle have never been so scarce, only a phalanx of regulars—feeders with a reputation to conserve—getting into the upper price bracket. The rank and file, making gains at 7 to 8 cents per pound and realizing that "anything may happen" took the short route to the final accounting process, with resultant deficient beef tonnage, a stiff premium for quality New York kosher steers weighing 1,200 pounds up and a conspicuous premium over 950- to 1,050-pound yearlings costing killers

\$12 to \$13. Unable to replenish New York kosher coolers, yearling carcasses were substituted and plain heavy steers utilized. The line was drawn, however, on aged, bony cattle, resulting in a \$5 to \$5.50 spread in favor of quality, 1,300-pound rough and plain bullocks selling at \$8.75 to \$9 on the same session that \$13 to \$13.50 was earned by the "right kind." This conceals a bull story; it also furnishes admonition to beef makers to cash ill-bred steers at the yearling stage.

### Feed Lots Get Bulk

Killers missed a seasonal grist of western grass beef; owners of short-feds derived substantial benefit. Murdo Mackenzie once upon a time advocated exclusion of warmed-up steers from the beef-rail during the western gathering season—not an illogical theory at that period. Under present conditions, the cupboard would be bare over a prolonged period if that practice were put into effect.

Killers have resorted to every possible expedient to depress prices, constantly admonished by murmurs from consumers protesting against advancing rail cost. By squatting on the safety valve, they prevented prime steers from passing \$13.35, refusing to pay \$13.36 until early October when a scramble put the peg into the \$13.50 hole, a string of \$13 to \$13.50 sales ensuing. Simultaneously top yearlings advanced to \$13, the pick of a short crop realizing \$12.50 to \$13; heifers, \$11 to \$11.75. But a spread of \$9.50 to \$11.75 took the bulk of fed steers; \$8 to \$10.50, most of the heifers.

### Must Be Cheap

Even the dribble of western grass beef reaching coolers was not enthusiastically received, the bald fact being that grass beef, unless dirt cheap, is no longer a pursued commodity. Bulk of this season's western cattle supply went to the feed bunker at substantial prices to convert cheap corn into more finished beef—cherry-red lean and white fat. Bulk of western beef steers sold in Chicago at \$8.50 to \$9.50; less desirable grades, at \$7.25 to \$8.25; and common steers, \$6 to \$7. Indicative of hard going for killers, their beef accumulation going into October was the smallest since 1931, 7 per cent less than thirty days previous, and 41 per cent less than the previous five-year October average—specifically, 36,870,000 pounds. Bulk of dry western cows realized \$6 to \$7.50; a few \$8, or better, when on the heifer order. Anything in the female line available at \$4 to \$5.50 was a prize package, the product serving to satisfy an abnormal unprecedented demand for "hot dogs" and "Hamburger," for which processors' appetites were whetted by current scarcity of dairy-yard culls, sell-

ing in the 4¼- to 5½-cent range. Strenuous effort to beat down cow prices to old-time bargain levels was futile.

This will suffice for a record of recent cattle markets. A notable phase of the trade was that buyers went afield day after day with injunction to "take off a quarter." With few exceptions, they failed to make good. Each day, with rare exceptions, the crop was cleaned up, never was a week-end carryover detected, and dressed beef went through distributive channels with gratifying celerity. Otherwise processors would not have returned promptly for fresh supplies. Bovine trash was popular, as supply yielded few steers in the \$6.50 to \$8.50 bracket, heifers under \$8, or cows below \$5.50. An era of good feeling in shipper circles resulted; constantly harassed buyers fulminated especially with respect to yields and beef color. "We are not kicking over cost, but we want something for our money," condenses their chorused protest.

### Hogs Slip

Meanwhile the hog market slid down a well greased pair of skids, the top dropping from \$10 to \$8 in a few weeks, then dipping to \$7.50. This filled the dressed market with a heavy tonnage of excellent meat, in keen competition with higher-cost beef; but, despite substantially increased swine slaughter, processors were unable to tuck much product away in their half-empty storage space, as their October holding of pork was down to 277,000,000 pounds, 14 per cent less than the previous month and 33 per cent under the previous five-year October average. Even a previously burdensome lard stock was whittled down to 90,000,000 pounds, 23 per cent less than September, 24 per cent less than a year ago, and 16 per cent under the previous five-year average, for which heavy European buying on the war scare was responsible. Processors went into the winter packing season with stocks of meats and edible offal at the lowest volume on record, 14 per cent less than the previous month and 33 per cent under the previous five-year average.

With all other agricultural commodities in excess production, inciting the powers that be to buy surpluses, this creates a gratifying prospect. Guessing the winter hog slaughter is futile. Officially spring farrowing was 12 per cent greater than 1937; but this does not reckon with porcine infantile mortality, also free marketing of "touched" shoats and disease scare jettisoning. When a count is made, available only through official slaughter figures, facts will be gleaned. Pig scarcity in many sections is suggested by clamor for stock pigs costing \$10 to \$11 per cwt., with not enough to go around.

### Lambs Working Up

At the bottom of the slump in September thousands of lambs went to kil-

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lers at \$7 to \$7.50, the crackerjack kind stopping at \$7.85, from whence the market climbed to an \$8 to \$8.25 basis and an \$8.50 top. Feeders, who went on a strike, with formal declaration that \$7 laid down was their limit, relented when their ranks broke, farmer feeders flocking to Chicago and Omaha where they paid \$7.25 to \$7.90, paraphrasing Oliver Twist by clamoring for more at the same money. Breaking unwritten rules, they took on 70- to 75-pound lambs, berating western growers for going on a quality basis and yearning for old-style 55 to 65 pounders. Meanwhile killers garnered second cuts of westerns by the thousand, reducing winter feeding to that extent.

A hot spot in the market is a \$10 to \$11.50 veal calf deal, which does not jibe with \$8 lambs. Not only is veal popular, but actual scarcity, consequent on purging dairy herds of tuberculosis and Bang's disease, has developed. Also every calf showing beef colors is being salvaged for development into beef, yard traders picking up singles and bunches, both steers and heifers, to figure in the prospective beef supply at the featherweight stage.

## BEEF RAIL TO GET VOLUME OF YEAR AGO

BY JAMES E. POOLE

**A**N ELEVENTH HOUR RUSH FOR replacement cattle would portend sharp increase in 1939 beef production if the necessary cattle were available. Consensus of trade is that when the country goes into winter quarters, no more cattle will be in preparation for the beef-rail than at the corresponding time in 1937. Such statistics as are available warrant this conclusion. Recognition of continuous turnover must be taken into the reckoning, as a large percentage of the steers acquired since August is trooping back to the fat-cattle market already. Cattle acquired previously have disappeared to the extent of 90 per cent.

Stockers passing through market gateways en route to feed bunkers, which include the major part of the pilgrimage, are in practically the same numerical volume as last year. The proportion moving "direct" has been reduced, as commercial breeders, especially in the Northwest, are holding their bovine property to collect a hay bill and be prepared to take advantage of a spring, if not an all-winter, replacement demand. Should the winter fat-steer market bid for fresh supplies constantly, feeders will respond, as the initial investment was high and they are anxious to grab a profit. Already thousands of steers fed seventy to 100 days have gone to the block. Killers can use that grade of beef and will get it right along.

Replacement values are admittedly out of line with fat-cattle values. Rarely,

if ever, has the spread between the two been so narrow. As was the case last winter, feeders are nervous—inclined to go to town at the earliest opportunity, having more concern for their capital, personal or borrowed, than cheap gains. Cost of feed has been steadily seeking lower levels under superabundant conditions. Old corn in Iowa dropped below 35 cents when liquidation necessary to make crib room for the new crop arose. Figuring the 69-cent dollar, this is getting down close to the depression level.

A huge holding of old corn carrying government loans has already been partly liquidated by generous terms from Washington, enabling owners to pocket the sharp difference between current elevator and loan values: 15 to 17 cents per bushel, which is Uncle Sam's loss on a speculative deal. Terminal markets and elevators have been clogged in consequence, exerting a depressive influence on the price. This is the logical method of surplus disposal, although the experience is not without a moral.

A generous new corn loan—variously estimated, popularly at 61 cents—will not attract a heavy bushelage to sealed cribs, as a considerable percentage of Corn Belt growers failed to come across when allotments were assigned and are ineligible to participate in federal bounty. The loan will probably generate chagrin in recalcitrant ranks. Possibly that was the intention.

### Corn Less Important

Corn for beef-making purposes will cut a less important figure than usual owing to enormous and unprecedented supplies of substitute feeds. Half a corn crop would have been ample for making a normal beef supply under changed feeding conditions. And there is a heavy supply of corn elsewhere than in the area where acreage restriction was attempted on a voluntary basis.

Stock cattle went into the tail end of the replacement period at the highest prices of the season. The wait-awhile element garnered disappointment, as anticipated bargain sales did not materialize. At Chicago, Texas calves reached \$10; at Omaha, "Sandhill youngsters" reached \$11; long strings of yearlings, lightweights preferred, cashing at \$8.25 to \$8.75. At \$7 to \$7.50, feeders got scant quality, few "dogs" selling below \$6.50. Getting away from weight, both in the case of calves and yearlings, amounted to an obsession, on the theory that gains can be made cheaper than buying it on the bovine back. Heavy, or fleshy, two-way yearlings and two-year old steers have been in disfavor all through the season, killers taking them to replenish depleted beef-rails under scant country competition.

At this writing, potential stocker demand is in the background of a vivid picture in which actual, unappeasable demand is conspicuous. Tip off to a speculator a spot where a few hundred cattle are available and he will "grab

a plane" to get there overnight. Riding the country in quest of cattle is a futile task. An Illinois man who hiked to Montana early in October, with a buying capacity of 1,000 head between his own requirements and those of his neighbors, returned empty-handed after a three-week jaunt. "Just couldn't get 'em," he explained. "Whenever I put down a bid a local man was at my back to take them at more money. They're swapping cattle, on a spot cash basis, between themselves. The property will stay in the country, which needs them to continue in the cattle business."

Here is an example: A train of Wyoming yearlings loaded at Greybull, Wyoming, was advertised to reach Chicago Monday, October 10, but it never made the grade. A disappointed reception committee, pockets full of cash and credit, had gathered, intent on participating in the distribution. A Johnny-on-the-spot crowd beat them to it by hiking to Wyoming, buying the entire aggregation before loading time, then clamoring for more. A previous train from Parkman, Wyoming, carrying 1,100 yearlings, sold in Chicago within a few hours at \$9.25 to \$9.85, the bulk going to Indiana, which has been tucking away stock cattle in unprecedented numbers for three months past.

Replacement prices are based on low feed cost rather than current fat-cattle prices. The feeders' winter problem is to hold gain cost down to a minimum, and they will do it or burst a suspender. Getting a profitable, quick turnover, they will enter the market intent on getting another set of cattle to repeat the operation. Unfilled holes are located everywhere, especially in cannery waste feeding areas and the Far East.

### Calf Crop Closely Sold

The western calf crop, or that portion of it available for a feed-lot pilgrimage, is closely sold up. In the Northwest many will be carried into the yearling stage, heifer calves being held to build up herds—a process not to be effected overnight. A gigantic appetite for cattle is indicated by an \$8.75 to \$9.50 market for the bulk of calves, \$8 to \$8.75 for yearlings, and with beef-making material on a bargain counter they are good property.

Noticeably scarce this season is the common steer of yore—the 4-cent type, reds, bridles, and motleys, the late John Imboden lauded as money-makers. But it will play a return engagement, as farmers east of the Missouri River are "getting back in," introducing mediocre beef bulls to low-yielding dairy cows, on the theory that any cross-bred beef animal is the "right" kind. Continuing this practice—and many of them know no other—a few years hence, trash will play a return engagement. Like Topsy, such cattle "just grow," never having a chance to pay even low production cost. The natural law of recurrence or repetition operates inevitably.

# CHICAGO WHOLESALE WESTERN DRESSED MEAT PRICES

	Oct. 17, 1938	Sept. 15, 1938	Oct. 1, 1937
<b>FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—</b>			
Steers—Choice (700 lbs. up).....	\$16.50-18.00	\$16.00-17.50	\$24.00-26.00
Steers—Good .....	14.00-16.50	14.00-16.00	20.00-24.00
Steers—Choice (500-700 lbs.).....	16.50-18.00	16.00-17.50	23.00-26.00
Steers—Good .....	14.00-16.50	14.00-16.00	18.00-24.00
Yearling Steers—Choice .....	16.50-18.00	16.00-17.50	23.00-25.00
Yearling Steers—Good .....	14.00-16.50	14.00-16.00	18.00-23.00
Cows—Good .....	11.00-12.00	12.00-12.50	13.00-15.50
Vealers—Choice .....	15.00-16.00	16.00-17.00	17.00-18.00
Vealers—Good .....	14.00-15.00	15.00-16.00	16.00-17.00
<b>FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—</b>			
Lambs—Choice (all weights).....	14.00-15.50	15.50-16.50	17.50-18.50*
Lambs—Good .....	13.00-14.50	14.50-15.50	16.50-17.50*
Ewes—Good .....	8.00- 9.00	7.00- 8.00	9.00-10.00
<b>FRESH PORK CUTS—</b>			
Loins—8-12-lb. average .....	16.00-17.50	23.00-25.00	22.50-25.00

\*45 lbs. down.

# CHICAGO LIVE STOCK PRICES

	Oct. 17, 1938	Sept. 15, 1938	Oct. 1, 1937
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.).....	\$11.25-13.00	\$11.25-12.75	\$17.75-19.50
Slaughter Steers—Good .....	9.25-11.75	9.25-11.75	12.50-18.25
Slaughter Steers—Choice (900-1,100 lbs.)....	11.00-12.50	11.00-12.25	16.25-19.00
Slaughter Steers—Good .....	9.00-11.00	9.25-11.25	10.50-17.75
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.).....	7.00- 9.25	7.00- 9.25	8.50-13.00*
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (550-900 lbs.)..	8.75-12.00	9.00-11.75†	10.25-17.75‡
Heifers—Good-Choice .....	8.50-11.50	8.50-11.25	9.75-16.00
Cows—Good .....	6.50- 7.25	6.75- 7.25	7.00- 9.00
Vealers—Good-Choice .....	9.50-11.25	9.50-12.00	.....
Calves—Good-Choice .....	6.75- 8.50	6.75- 8.50	8.00-12.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice....	7.50- 9.75	7.25- 9.75	8.25-12.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.....	6.00- 7.75	5.75- 7.50	6.00- 8.50
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-250 lbs.).....	7.30- 7.60	9.10- 9.35	11.90-12.25
Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice.....	5.85- 6.75	5.75- 6.75	.....
Lambs—Good-Choice .....	7.50- 8.15	7.50- 8.00	9.75-10.90
Feeding Lambs (range)—Good-Choice.....	7.00- 7.85	6.85- 7.60	.....
Ewes—Good-Choice .....	3.00- 3.40	3.25- 3.75	4.00- 5.00

\*900 lbs. up. †750-900 lbs. ‡550-750 lbs.

# LIVE STOCK AT STOCK YARDS

	September 1938	September 1937	First Nine Months 1938	First Nine Months 1937
<b>RECEIPTS—</b>				
Cattle* .....	1,408,969	1,612,839	10,198,805	10,937,483
Calves .....	608,516	747,116	4,769,019	5,390,561
Hogs .....	1,881,331	1,533,311	17,368,784	15,848,898
Sheep .....	2,986,194	2,993,509	19,295,841	18,853,632
<b>TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—</b>				
Cattle* .....	685,131	795,547	4,132,757	4,468,609
Calves .....	268,864	298,899	1,730,243	1,785,087
Hogs .....	479,300	453,694	4,951,711	4,659,151
Sheep .....	1,786,391	1,806,070	9,243,318	9,409,340
<b>STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—</b>				
Cattle* .....	399,953	378,825	1,874,289	1,835,679
Calves .....	69,483	58,279	363,769	341,564
Hogs .....	25,780	31,850	318,154	294,297
Sheep .....	620,520	632,681	1,940,474	1,981,313
<b>SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—</b>				
Cattle* .....	916,626	939,019	7,267,497	7,395,890
Calves .....	452,654	537,446	4,146,825	4,836,688
Hogs .....	2,671,296	2,032,557	24,616,322	21,678,021
Sheep .....	1,693,906	1,670,961	13,622,092	13,016,489

\*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

# HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

Commodity in Pounds	Oct. 1 1938†	Sept. 1 1938	Oct. 1 1937	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	23,764,000	21,820,000	25,169,000	45,983,000
Cured beef*.....	13,106,000	21,647,000	13,577,000	16,727,000
Lamb and mutton.....	2,313,000	1,861,000	1,887,000	2,185,000
Frozen pork.....	59,126,000	82,536,000	54,922,000	88,253,000
Dry salt pork*.....	59,803,000	81,097,000	47,088,000	67,751,000
Pickled pork*.....	158,808,000	171,144,000	180,524,000	259,276,000
Miscellaneous .....	52,939,000	69,167,000	43,858,000	67,586,000
Total meats.....	369,759,000	449,272,000	367,025,000	547,761,000
Lard .....	90,263,000	116,620,000	72,614,000	107,975,000
Frozen poultry.....	59,950,000	54,941,000	61,721,000	57,795,000
Creamery butter.....	210,351,000	201,252,000	118,697,000	135,223,000
Eggs (case equivalent).....	7,914,000	9,514,000	11,293,000	9,766,000

\*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

# HIDE VALUES ADVANCE, STOCKS AT LOW POINT

BY J. E. P.

**S**LIGHTLY DIMINISHED SLAUGHTER, shrinking stocks and activity in leather-manufacturing circles are factors responsible for advancing hide values. Heavy native steer hides have been marked up to 13½ cents; extra light natives to 12 cents; heavy Texas, to 12½ cents; light Texas, to 11½ cents; heavy butts, to 13 cents; and heavy Colorados, to 12½ cents. Packer cowhides are earning 12¼ to 13 cents. Small packer hides are on an 11-cent basis for steers, 10½ cents for cows.

Visible supply of cattle hides and leather, according to the New York Commodity Exchange, is the lowest since 1921, or 13,421,000 equivalent cattle hides, compared with 14,680,000 a year ago. The principal decrease is in finished stocks, reflecting sharp increase in total leather consumption, which reached 2,125,000 equivalent hides during the latest month, the highest since March, 1937, compared with 1,693,000 in July, and 2,024,000 in August, 1937.

Leather output also increased sharply, amounting to 1,764,000 equivalent hides during August, against 1,407,000 in July and 1,819,000 in August, 1937.

A combination of lower stocks and increased consumption resulted in a sharp decrease in the number of months' supply represented by total stocks. These decreased to 7.7 months' supply at the close of August, compared with 9 on July 31, and 7.6 on August 31, 1937.

The movement into sight of all hides during August also increased slightly over July—a total of 1,678,000 hides, compared with 1,577,000 the previous month. For the first eight months, however, into-sight movement totaled 11,352,000 hides, against 13,933,000 in the corresponding 1937 period.

The price structure is working on a sounder basis, consequent on diminished stocks, reasonable activity in shoe manufacturing, light cattle slaughter, and diminished imports. Packers, having reduced inventories to more normal levels, are in a position to demand more money.

# WOOL MARKET SHOWS SIGNS OF LIVENESS

BY J. E. P.

**E**MERGING FROM THE COMATIC condition into which it was precipitated by Secretary Hull's trade dickering with London, the wool market shows signs of vivacity. Actual transactions of magnitude are reported at eastern concentration points for real money at advancing prices. Fine territory and Texas wools are active at firm prices in Boston, the former selling in original bags at 67 to 68 cents, scoured



basis, for good French combing length, and around 65 cents for short French combing length. Twelve-months Texas wools are selling at 68 to 70 cents. Graded combing bright fleece wools of three-eighths and quarter-blood grades are moving freely at 30 to 32 cents in the grease.

Imports have dropped sharply to the advantage of domestic wools. From January to August, 1938, only 8,741,000 pounds of combing and clothing wools came from foreign sources, compared with 113,994,000 the corresponding period of 1937. Imports of carpet wools dropped from 161,568,000 pounds in 1937 to 32,504,000 pounds this year.

#### Consumption Up

Naturally optimism, on a long vacation, is playing a return engagement. The trade is awaiting opening of spring lines, and on the reception they get will depend wool prices in the immediate future. Consumption, which dropped to low volume in July, has picked up meanwhile. Unfilled orders will keep mills busy until early November.

Fabric quotations have been advanced since the rise in wool developed, manufacturers still charting a conservative course; but holders of remaining wool in the West are standing pat for firm, if not higher, prices.

World wool stocks are heavier than a year ago, which is responsible for an unfavorable opening of the Australian season, prices averaging 6 per cent lower than earlier in the season. English wool top quotations have moved into lower ground, although the tone of London sales recently is encouraging. Buying in foreign markets is far from urgent concurrently. Some war buying was done, but its extent cannot be estimated, and it has now disappeared. Estimates on the new Southern Hemisphere clip are normal.

At present, mills are awaiting new orders, but are fairly busy with old business. However, weavers are optimistic. Consumption for the calendar year is expected to fall considerably short, probably 100,000,000 pounds, of the average, suggesting that a slack must be taken up.

#### Better Business

Speculation concerning "better business" is of one tone—improvement—which will insure increased wool consumption. All the market needs is increased buying; stocks in hand mean little. Only low-grade South American carpet wools are being imported at the moment.

Restoration of peace conditions, temporarily at least, in Europe has exerted a stabilizing influence. British manufacturers have a pot of money tied up in top contracts. When this capital is released they will be in a position to resume buying at the antipodes.

As to the outcome of the British treaty, guessing is futile. Secretary

Hull is up against a bunch of hard traders across the water. Should the tariff on manufactured goods from Britain and its Dominions be reduced, the effect will be promptly reflected in domestic prices.

## BEEF CATTLE GROWING DEVELOPING IN EAST

BY JAMES E. POOLE

**A** CONSPICUOUS EASTWARD thrust by beef cattle production is attracting attention. Continuance will depend on financial results. Demoralization of an overexpanded dairy industry is largely responsible. Fundamentally it is a development born of necessity. Agricultural production is as changeable as a dollar bill, always seeking the least-resistance route, and that an excursion into beef production invades a radically different sphere will not be contradicted. With pork, lamb, and poultry following the crowd is as easy as falling off the traditional log, compared with the tedious and longer beef path, involving investment and experience, with at least a modicum of perseverance. Winter maintenance of the beef cow is the major phase of the problem; summering the critter is as simple as losing a bet on the bangtails.

During the past six months the writer has pursued a novel avocation: pursuit of live-stock production expansion trends over an area extending from Pennsylvania and the Virginias on the east, Kentucky and Tennessee on the south, westward into Iowa and Missouri, and in the direction of the arctic circle to Minnesota and Wisconsin. Everywhere interest in live-stock development in a generic sense is intense, although mainly restricted to the porcine and ovine species. Dairymen execrate their job in language suggestive of profanity. Breeding sows and ewes are in demand at premium prices everywhere; the entire country is verminous with the several avian species. No statistics are available as to dairy cows introduced to beef

bulls, but the total is by no means insignificant and the practice is spreading.

E. S. Bazard, editor of the *Pennsylvania Farmer*, himself the owner of a sixty-year-old herd of registered Angus cattle, is confident that the Keystone State is slowly getting into beef production from the basement up; also that New York state, both Virginias, and Ohio are joining the procession. "We can grow beef cattle hereabouts, profitably, on a quality basis. Any other method is preordained to failure," he said.

#### Kentucky Coming Back

Kentucky, once the hub of a prosperous Shorthorn cattle industry, during the period when cabs wore horses, is staging a comeback, the Louisville livestock show this year making a convincing demonstration of that fact. Prior to invasion of the Ohio Valley, both Tennessee and Kentucky were natural game preserves. Civilization developed a cattle industry, since decadent. Winter maintenance of a cow in this latitude is inexpensive compared with that of northern latitudes, although search for accurate cost is futile.

Southern Indiana and Ohio are promising spheres. In the hill country of the bad end of the Hoosier State, Eben Jones, of Bloomington, Illinois, conducting an experiment for the Aetna Life Insurance Company during depression depths, made a 94 per cent calf crop score although calf cost at weaning time, including creep expense, was \$31 per head. Major Rafferty, of Morocco, Indiana, figures calf cost on a 300-cow Angus herd at \$24 to \$26. The extreme cost range secured on these expeditions ranged from \$15 to \$32, demonstrating that production cost, concerning which agrarian Messiahs rave, is elusive and undeterminable, regardless of the commodity.

#### Rodent-Destroying Cows

Two Illinois Hereford herds, one on a pretentious, the other miniature, scale, one commercial, the other for demonstration purposes only, elicit interest. The late Jay Morton, noted salt magnate, was responsible for the Thompson Lake herd of 500 cows located in Putnam County, near Peoria, which serves a dual purpose: preservation of several miles of dikes constructed to prevent a regular spring inundation of 12,000 acres by backwater from the Illinois River, and utilizing rough feed produced annually on 6,000 acres of grained land. The cow herd has banished a rodent dike-destroying population, insuring flood immunity, incidentally putting cash value on waste vegetation. Southwestern cows form the herd; their consorts are registered bulls with outstanding quality.

On the occasion of the subscriber's visit, 482 calves were in process of weaning, by simply divorcing them from their dams. Both cows and progeny



were fat, the latter taught to eat at creeps from which cows were excluded by single electric charged wires. Calves were weighed into the feed-lot at 7 cents per pound, which Ira Ashly, who acts as managing editor of the plant, considers not only adequate but leaves a profit on cow maintenance. This is possible with practically free summer range.

#### No Menace to West

In Mason County hard by, the "Cimco" farm, operated by the Chicago and Illinois Midland Railway, has a small demonstration herd of Hereford cows, thirty-one head, maintained at almost identical cost, as no charge is made for summer pasture. This farm is located midway in a twenty-mile-wide stretch of nonproductive sandy land extending from Beardstown to Pekin on the east bank of the Illinois River. The experiment, correctly demonstration, was undertaken for purpose of proving that beef growing was profitably possible. T. L. Jones, the manager, acquired the herd in Kansas and Texas, transplanted southwestern indigenous grasses, and is convinced that his theory is right. "Our soil is similar to those of southwestern semi-arid sections," he explained, "and, while rainfall is greater, we are not immune to drought. During the 1936 parched period, when native vegetation, including blue grass, disappeared, our cows came through the period of stress, not fat, but in fair condition, delivering their calves, on a pasture where nothing grew but imported plants." Already widespread interest has been aroused. Land recently neglected at \$10 per acre has doubled in value, and a number of small beef herds that have been established furnish a local market for registered bulls. The Cimco demonstration includes other domestic animal species and avian production, particularly turkeys. How far this development will go is in the sphere of conjecture. Reiterating comment in a former yarn on the same subject, no menace to western commercial cattle production impends. A hundred Thompson Lake herds, a thousand Cimco herd duplications would not glut an already deficient beef supply.

#### Battle of Breeds

Another battle of the breeds impends. Already the Shorthorn association has

taken up the cudgels, picking Howard Gramlich, of Nebraska, for the job. The Angus association is on the same trail, both breeds being on the fringe of production in a sphere where Hereford dominance in the West is not disputed. Apparently the moment is opportune. "There is no best breed," said Major Rafferty, of Indiana. "The best breed is the one the operator prefers; with another he will fail."

Once upon a time an isolated Mormon settlement decided on a dairying venture. A "best breed" wrangle threatened the enterprise, resulting in individual appeal to the local bishop in his capacity as agricultural advisor. The ecclesiastic found each application concerned the cattle the applicant liked, prompting him to secure herds of the particular breed involved. Comparing notes, they repaired in a body to the church boss demanding explanation.

"I merely ascertained your preference," explained the bishop, "on the theory that cows you liked were the best you could get." The story, authentic, has an evident moral. There is something in pride of ownership.

Beef cattle were grown east of the Missouri River long before a Hereford thrust in all directions to the West put that breed in vogue all over the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains areas. The new thrust will be watched with interest. This screed carries no confident prediction that it will prove momentous.

#### MEAT PACKING INDUSTRY IS NATION WIDE

**T**O THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE of this country, mention of the American meat-packing industry brings but one city to mind—Chicago.

Illinois does rank first among states in the meat-packing business, it is true, and yet, as pointed out in the Institute of American Meat Packers' "Meat and Live Stock Digest," the New York City area, which ordinarily brings to mind skyscrapers and Wall Street, ranks among the first three meat-producing centers of the country. Over 50 per cent more calves are dressed in that area than in any other city in the country. Sheep and lambs dressed in the area number 40 per cent greater than in any other market.

Virtually every state has an establishment where some meat is processed.

In the nation there are almost 1,000 individual meat-packing companies operating more than 1,200 plants, producing product valued at over \$2,500,000,000 annually. In value of product at the plant, the Census of Manufacturers lists the meat-packing industry first or second in every report but one since 1919.

Number of meat-packing establishments in the various states, the rank of the state, and the rank of meat packing among industries of the various states of the country are shown in the below table:

	Number in state	Rank of state	Rank among state's industries
Illinois .....	79	1	1
Iowa .....	23	2	1
New York .....	87	3	6
Minnesota .....	14	4	1
Kansas .....	33	5	1
California .....	116	6	3
Ohio .....	128	7	7
Nebraska .....	17	8	1
Missouri .....	17	9	1
Pennsylvania .....	134	10	10
New Jersey .....	29	11	6
Texas .....	40	12	3
Indiana .....	53	13	5
Wisconsin .....	22	14	4
Massachusetts .....	27	15	14
Michigan .....	43	16	14
Oklahoma .....	20	17	3
Maryland .....	37	18	4
Colorado .....	19	19	1
South Dakota .....	7	20	1
Washington .....	27	21	5
Tennessee .....	18	22	9
Kentucky .....	29	23	5
Georgia .....	13	24	12
Oregon .....	27	25	5
West Virginia .....	8	26	...
Virginia .....	19	27	17
Utah .....	9	28	4
Alabama .....	11	29	17
Arizona .....	6	30	...
Montana .....	7	...	5
Florida .....	6	...	15
Idaho .....	13	...	5
Maine .....	6	...	15
Rhode Island .....	6	...	22
Louisiana .....	5	...	37
All others .....	40†	...	...
Total .....	1223	...	...

\*1933, the latest year for which such comparisons are available.

†Including Arkansas, 7; Connecticut, Wyoming, and North and South Carolina, 4 each; Delaware, Nevada, District of Columbia, 3; Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Dakota, 2; New Mexico, Vermont, 1.

#### FEEDSTUFFS PRICES

Cottonseed cake and meal was quoted on October 20 at \$22.50 a ton, f. o. b. Texas points. Hay prices, carlot, on October 19, at Omaha were: Alfalfa—choice leafy, \$13.50 to \$14.50; No. 1, \$12.50 to \$13; standard leafy, \$11.50 to \$12.50; standard, \$10.50 to \$11.50; No. 2, \$9 to \$10; No. 3, \$7.50 to \$8; upland prairie—No. 1, \$9 to \$10; No. 2, \$8 to \$9; No. 3, \$7 to \$7.50; midland prairie—No. 1, \$8.50 to \$9; No. 2, \$7 to \$8; mixed—No. 1, \$9 to \$10; No. 2, \$8 to \$9; No. 3, \$7 to \$7.50.

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# FOREIGN

## LIVE STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

**T**HE INCREASE IN AIR MAIL AND air passenger service between Australia and the rest of the world has lent force to a fear that diseases of live stock may find an entry into the commonwealth by air. Our isolated geographical position, which necessitates a long sea voyage for any class of stock likely to be imported, plus adequate quarantine of new arrivals, so far has kept Australia remarkably free of epidemic stock diseases; but, now that planes are coming from overseas almost daily, that isolation is a thing of the past. It is true that air craft does not carry live stock; but, as practically all come in a few hours direct from the tropic islands lying south of Asia, the risk of introducing insect-borne diseases is obvious.

The matter was taken up by stock owners' organizations with federal government a year or more ago. It was then arranged to have the interior of planes sprayed with chemicals on arrival on the Australian coast. Since that arrangement was made, air services have increased considerably, and it is felt that more adequate precautions should be taken to protect our most important industry. Government evidently is alive to the necessity for action; for it has decided to send a veterinary officer to the World Veterinary Conference at Geneva who will travel back to Australia by stages and investigate methods of quarantine and prevention of introduction of diseases by air craft in various countries.

### Fantastic

Before leaving the subject of aerial transport, mention may be made of what appears to be a somewhat fantastic proposition that has lately been put up to federal government. The latter, some little time ago, received an official report bearing on the development of the Northern Territory which included a plan for linking the present isolated eastern pastoral areas by rail with the existing railroad services in Queensland and building a line to give an outlet for the western cattle country through Wyndham on the coast, where a meat packing plant is operated by the Western Australian government.

The new proposal, put forward by a private individual, involves the substitution of freight-carrying air craft for railroads. A fleet of fifty large planes is suggested, the estimate capital cost being \$7,500,000, as against an estimated expenditure on rail construction of \$15,000,000. The planes, the propounder of the scheme says, would be used for the transport of frozen and chilled meat and other products from packing plants yet

to be built in central areas of production to the coast, and back loadings could carry fencing wire, building materials, and general station requirements. How the capital is to be raised has not transpired. In addition to the cost of planes, a large sum would be required to build and finance the meat packing establishments, which, owing to the short killing season in the territory, can hardly be expected to operate at a profit even under most favorable conditions. Government has promised to consider the plan, and that, probably, is the last that will be heard of it.

### Season Closing

It is expected that most of the northern packing plants will finish cattle killings in connection with the current beef export season toward the end of September. They have had a fairly good run so far as numbers are concerned, and prices paid have been comparatively high. Recently packers have been buying on the basis of \$6.50 per 100 pounds, dressed weights, delivered at plant, for first-quality bullocks, \$5.75 for seconds, and \$5 for thirds.

The plants in central and south Queensland probably will continue to operate for at least another two months [to November 16] but only with very reduced daily tallies. An abnormal scarcity of slaughter cattle in New South Wales and Victoria, due to the dry autumn and early winter, is attracting fats from the northern state, which in its turn is limiting supplies available for export there. Whatever packers may feel about the present position, breeders and fatteners in Queensland welcome the additional outlets. Up to \$12 per 100 pounds is being paid for good-quality light local steers in the Sydney yards, and, while that rate may not apply to cattle that have been trucked 300 to 400 miles from Queensland, the best of interstate offerings are fetching over \$9.60 per 100 pounds.

In the Brisbane yards top light steers have lately been averaging \$7.45 to \$7.70 per 100 pounds, and occasionally, on a light supply, up to \$8.15 has been paid by packers for the best chiller type. First-grade freezer type bullocks are selling to \$7.45; seconds, to \$7; prime heifers, to \$6.70. In central Queensland packers are buying bullocks for the export trade on a basis of \$6.70 for firsts, \$6 for seconds, and \$5.30 for thirds.

### Store Market Strong

The relatively high prices ruling for finished cattle are being reflected in the store market. Some breeders report the strongest demand in living memory, and that despite the fact that much of the fattening country needs rain to assure feed. Twenty-eight dollars and eighty cents a head and more is being offered

for two- to three-year-old store condition steers of only moderate breeding.

Polled Hereford and Shorthorn stud cattle recently imported from the United States figured prominently in the prize list at last month's Queensland National Exhibition. After a particularly close contest, the Polled Hereford bull championship was awarded to Santos Jim, a two-year-old imported by James Sparkes, with the American bred Paul's Perfection, entered by Wilson & McDouall Pty., Ltd., in the three-year-old class, runner up. The female championship went to the Wilson & McDouall imported heifer, Evelyn 3rd, with the American bred cow, Lily's Lady, shown by James Sparkes, in reserve. Santos Jim, I believe, had important wins in America before being shipped to Australia.

In the Polled Shorthorn section, Red Victor, an American bull that gained similar honors last year, won the bull championship for J. T. Scrymgeour. The female championship went to Gundibri Lassie 2nd, bred in New South Wales from imported stock.

It is significant that at the auctions of stud cattle held in conjunction with the exhibition, top price of \$1,000 was realized for a Polled Shorthorn bull and a horned Hereford bull. The Polled Shorthorn was bred in the Gundibri Estate stud. Polled Hereford bulls sold to \$600, horned Shorthorns, to \$350; and Aberdeen-Angus bulls, to \$475. Taking it by



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and large, the sales were disappointing, which possibly can be accounted for by a lack of funds among the cattlemen generally. Though relatively good values are now obtaining for beef cattle, breeders have had a very thin time in recent years what with droughts and low prices, and they have not had time to build up reserve.

## AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN POLAND

**"FOREIGN AGRICULTURE,"** A Department of Agriculture publication, presents an interesting article entitled "Farm Aid in Poland," by Hally H. Conrad, junior agricultural economist, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The introductory paragraph says:

"At the close of the World War, the newly established Polish Republic was confronted with a critical economic situation. Agricultural productivity, the mainstay of the country, had been almost destroyed by the ravages of occupying armies, and trade channels were blocked by dissensions within and hostile influences without. It was necessary for the government to encourage agriculture, because food supplies were essential and the country, with its limited industrial development, was dependent chiefly upon agricultural exports for foreign exchange. Later, under depression conditions, the need for farm aid was intensified. As in many other agricultural countries, the government became increasingly concerned with the farmers' plight. Among many farm-relief measures adopted, support of domestic agricultural prices by means of export bounties has been outstanding. Import restrictions designed to foster self-sufficiency in certain raw materials have also played an important part in the Polish agricultural program."

From Mr. Conrad's chapter about the land and people, we extract:

"Leaving out of consideration the special hardships suffered by some of the minority groups of modern Poland, the

life of the Polish peasant has always been difficult, whatever the controlling government. Much has been done in recent years to encourage agriculture, but as late as 1934 'the peasants had the bare necessities of continued life and nothing more' [this the author quotes from the book *Peasant Europe*]. In the northeastern provinces, especially in the vicinity of the Prypec Marshes, where the land is poor and the climate severe, the privations endured are hard to realize unless actually seen. 'At the end of each winter cattle are reduced to moving skeletons. Horses, having exhausted their winter supply of fodder, are propped up in their stalls in the hope that spring may arrive in time for them to be carried to the pastures before death releases them from their sufferings. The peasants themselves are often in little better plight—mere skeletons racked with fever and malaria, their clothes skins and rags and their foot-coverings of bark cut from trees' [also quoted from *Peasant Europe*].

"Conditions are not much better in southern and southeastern Poland, although the land is more fertile and the people less backward. Much of the difficulty must be attributed to the preponderance of agricultural holdings too small to maintain the average peasant family. Eighty-seven per cent of the holdings of the southern provinces had only 5 hectares (12 acres) or less. Taxation has become increasingly heavy, and facilities for agricultural credits are inadequate.

"A movement recently started by the government, known as the Central Industrial Zone Scheme, has benefited the peasants of central Poland to some extent, but only in German Poland is any degree of prosperity found among the small farmers. They have profited from the examples set by their more up-to-date German neighbors and their proximity to the industrial centers. But even in this section, 60 per cent of the farmers in 1921 had only 5 hectares (12 acres) or less. Net receipts on 482 farms

ranging from 2 to 50 hectares (5-125 acres) during 1931-32 to 1934-35 averaged less than 1 per cent on the capital invested. On farms of 5 hectares (12 acres) or less, net receipts were less than one-half of 1 per cent."

## FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

**OFFICIAL FIGURES SHOW** 147,208 farms infected with foot-and-mouth disease in Germany on August 15, 1938. The epidemic may cause a serious shortage of beef, veal, and dairy products in 1938, it is reported. . . . As a result of the spread of the disease in Sweden, price of beef has recently declined. The government may have to take measures to counteract effects of increased quantities of meat placed on the market following slaughtering of herds. . . . Three thousand new cases of the diseases were notified in Holland recently. . . . Killings of hoof-carrying animals necessitated by foot-and-mouth disease during the current period is reported so far to have cost the Danish government about 4,000,000 kroner (\$880,000) in cash compensations to farmers.

\* \* \*

Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimate of the 1938-39 world wheat supply is 4,940,000,000 bushels. Probable disappearance of wheat during the current marketing year is placed at 3,795,000,000 bushels. This would leave a carryover of about 1,145,000,000 bushels next July, which compares with record carryover of 1,193,000,000 bushels in 1934. World supply, excluding Soviet Russia and China, is reported the second largest on record, consisting of 4,345,000,000 bushels estimated produced this year, plus carryover stocks on July 1 estimated at 595,000,000 bushels. The total supply was reported to be 585,000,000 bushels more than in the year just closed, when supplies were the second smallest since 1927. . . . Heat and drought have affected severely all spring grain and to a lesser extent winter grain in a large area of the Soviet Union. . . . Combined 1938 wheat crop of China, Manchuria, and Japan is now estimated at 696,000,000 bushels, about 5 per cent less than the small 1937 crop and 23 per cent below average.

\* \* \*

World meat consumption, although lowered in recent years, is certain to increase, according to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. Compilations based on consumption of meat by urban families in the chief countries of the world showed that the city of Buenos Aires consumes more meat per capita than any city in the world. The annual consumption per capita there is 300 pounds. This compares with 185 pounds in Vienna; 155 pounds in Copenhagen; 126 pounds in Detroit, and 12 pounds in Salerno, Italy. It is pointed out that Tokyo now has more than



Sunday at a farmhouse in the Polish Corridor.



3,000 retail meat shops, "where 15 years ago there were only three or four." The Institute's research experts conclude that only approximately one-fourth of the world's population eats an appreciable quantity of meat.

\* \* \*

Hawaii has cows that never drink, we read in the *Western Live Stock Journal*. Grazing in fertile valleys on the slopes of Mauna Kea, the 13,800-foot mountain in the northwest of the island of Hawaii, where mists constantly drift in on the trade winds, cattle slake their thirst through the air they breathe or by cropping wet grass. When taken to drier regions they balk at the sight of water, not knowing what it is.

\* \* \*

Shoe imports from Czechoslovakia are not likely to be affected by any change in applicable United States duty due to cession of territory to Germany, according to Tanners' Council of America. But gloves may be subject to high United States duties, since they are produced in the ceded border areas. Germany does not share most-favored-nation treatment, and imports from that country are dutiable at considerably higher rates than those fixed in the agreement with Czechoslovakia.

\* \* \*

The Mexican ambassador to Washington, according to press dispatches, on October 8 predicted the issue between Mexico and the United States over expropriation of American-owned lands would be settled shortly. Involved in the expropriations are an estimated 1,000,000 acres of American-owned land taken over by the government since 1927, valued at \$10,132,388.

\* \* \*

Cattle exported from Mexico are now subject to a 12 per cent *ad valorem* tax. Mexican cattlemen believe the tax will adversely affect the local live-stock industry. The state of Chihuahua also imposed an export tax of 40 cents a head, effective September 1. . . . Cattle exports from Mexico to the United States have totaled: 62,325 head in 1933; 55,853 in 1934; 251,090 in 1935; 164,046 in 1936; 198,768 in 1937.

\* \* \*

Recovery of foreign markets for United States farm products may depend pretty largely on what happens to three major agricultural items, according to a report released by the agricultural committee of the National Association of Manufacturers. The committee says that shrinkage in exports of grains, meat, and cotton account for over 85 per cent of the decrease in United States farm exports. Cause of decrease in cotton exports seems largely due to our domestic policy of curtailing production and pricing our cotton out of line with world levels. The decrease in grain exports was almost wholly due to the series of drought years in the

Great Plains areas. In meat products, the bulletin says, exports have declined steadily from war days as our own population increased, and we have had less than normal for our own use, due partly to the drought and partly to our population increase.

## STOCKMEN'S BOOKSHELF

**BORDER PATROL**, by Mary Kidder Rak, author of "A Cowman's Wife" and "Mountain Cattle," Houghton Mifflin, Company, Boston, Mass. Price \$2.75. Each chapter in "Border Patrol" is a "case" in the records of the men in the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service who guard the southern boundaries of Arizona, New Mexico, and west Texas. An interesting and enlightening book.

**1939 FEEDING PRACTICES**. *Bulletin of the National Cottonseed Products Association, Inc.* Illustrated. Free. Available from cotton oil mills and from the National Cottonseed Products Association Educational Service offices in Dallas, Texas, and Atlanta, Georgia. "Vision and courage build better live stock" is the theme of the bulletin, which is dedicated to farmers and ranchmen whose practical contributions have aided progress in live-stock breeding and feeding. Practical rations and feeding recommendations are contained in the bulletin.

**EXPERIMENTAL FEEDING OF DEER**, by A. A. Nichol. Published by University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. *Technical Bulletin No. 75*. During a three and one-half year period, thirty-eight deer, native species to Arizona, were fed experimentally to determine the food requirements necessary for growth, maintenance, and reproduction. It was found that the coefficient 2.35 multiplied by the hundredweight of deer will give in pounds the amount of air-dry forage removed daily by the deer from the range. Palatability tests were run on 168 different native plants. These tests showed that shrubs make a dependable and substantial part of the deer diet, but that the tree forages, grasses, weeds, and annuals are also very important.

**CREEP FEEDING AND FINISHING BEEF CALVES**, by Bruce R. Taylor, O. S. Wilham, and L. E. Hawkins, of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Agricultural Experiment Station, Stillwater, Oklahoma. *Experiment Station Bulletin No. 235, May, 1938*. "Creep feeding is not to be recommended for spring calves that are to be full fed on grain for five months or more after weaning. The extra finish will result in the calves making slower and more expensive gains during the finishing period. . . . Creep feeding of well bred spring calves will produce heavier and fatter calves that can be sold for a higher

price at weaning time. . . . A weight gain of 5 to 10 pounds may be expected from each bushel of corn fed to creep-fed calves. The creep-fed calves could have been sold from 30 to 40 days earlier than the non-creep. . . . Creep feeding saves shrinkage in weaning. . . . Creep feeding will be found most profitable and satisfactory where the calves are dropped in the fall and winter so they will be heavy enough to sell at or within 30 or 40 days after weaning."

**WINTERING BEEF COWS ON THE RANGE WITH AND WITHOUT A SUPPLEMENT OF COTTONSEED CAKE**, by W. H. Black, J. R. Queensberry, and A. L. Baker, of the Bureau of Animal Industry. *Technical Bulletin No. 603*. Illustrated. 22 pp. Address Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 5 cents. Experiments were conducted to determine effect on winter gains, feed costs, and subsequent calf crop of wintering cows on the range (1) without supplement and (2) with a supplement of cottonseed cake. The experiments were carried on at Miles City, Montana.

**HINTS ON MOUNTAIN-LION TRAPPING**. Leaflet No. 94, United States Department of Agriculture. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Five cents.

**PRODUCER**. I have been reading it for several years and enjoy it very much. —PAUL KEOGH, Beulah, N. D.

## AN EARLY DAY EXPERIENCE IN YELLOWSTONE

**EXAMINATION OF EARLY RECORDS** and photostatic copies of such documents are among the services to posterity carried on by historians of the National Park Service. One such record concerns the family of an early settler in Yellowstone National Park. Its laconic style is as significant of the period as is the thrilling experience related.

"In June, '81, I went to Omaha on business, expected to be gone 30 days; had sufficient grub to last till my return cached away in a root house apart but near my cabin, while I was gone and my wife and 4 children was necessarily alone.

"Soon after my departure one morning two bears came down the mt., smelling the meat &c. in root house: approached same and went to digging through the dirt roof.

"Wife saw it was either kill bears or starve. She took rifle, shot one bear through the lungs. He came rolling toward her. She ran in cabin and closed door just in time, as bear threw himself against it, shaking the whole house. He found it useless, however, and went off. Wife followed him up the mt. found him breathing hard, shot him through the heart. Weighed 700 lbs. Skin was spoilt when I got home but wife and babes were safe."

# ROUND THE RANGE

## WESTERN LIVE STOCK AND RANGE REPORT

**W**ESTERN RANGES ARE blessed with a good crop of matured feed and generally ample supplies of hay and other feeds, and stock continues in very good condition, according to the October 10 live-stock and range report of the Denver regional live-stock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Condition of ranges was 82 per cent of normal, the same as last month, compared with 76 a year ago and the 1928-37 average of 76.7.

### Summary by states:

**Arizona.**—Ranges dry and spotted; feed short in some areas; browse held up well; some forced feeding and stock moving; cattle fair to good; sheep and lambs generally good.

**California.**—Ranges and pastures very good; escaped usual September decline; heavy late September rains injured matured feeds; hay and concentrates abundant; cattle in very good condition; some stockers and feeders coming in; many cattle on beet tops; sheep excellent; sheep and lamb August and September in-shipments slightly above 1937 but below 1936.

**Colorado.**—Stock in very good condition; range feed best since 1930; feed in eastern sections improved and grass making good comeback; hay and range feed supplies best in several years but grain supply low.

**Idaho.**—Southern ranges above average; good growth feed but rains needed; winter ranges good; hay and grain ample and surplus in parts of south and east; irrigated pastures very good; abundance field feeds; stock excellent; cattle marketings rather light; lamb shipments about completed.

**Kansas (western).**—Ranges and pastures improved but getting dry; pastures made good recovery this year; very dry surface soil in wheat pastures; cattle in good condition; strong feeder demand; financial conditions poor under low wheat prices.

**Montana.**—Range good; ample hay and other feeds for winter; few local areas need moisture; cattle and sheep in very good condition; cattle marketings light; tendency to hold; good feed retarded lamb shipments.

**Nebraska (western).**—Ranges improved first half September; winter range good; wild hay good in Sand Hills; grain and other feeds ample; rye and wheat pasture prospects good; cattle shipments light but tendency toward heavy marketings.

**Nevada.**—Ranges dried but good; good growth on winter ranges; moisture needed; stock in good flesh.

**New Mexico.**—Ranges in general and feed crops in dry land areas improved; ample feed in most areas; cattle and sheep in very good condition; cattle contracting not heavy.

**North Dakota.**—Ranges and pastures

good in west but damaged by dryness in eastern sections; winter ranges fair but need rain; feeds adequate except in parts of west and south damaged by hoppers; stock held up well; low cash crop prices may force some sales.

**Oklahoma.**—Ranges and pastures dried but carry matured feed; feeds generally ample; wheat pasture prospects poor; cattle in good flesh; tendency to hold; continued dryness may force sales, particularly in southern areas.

**Oregon.**—Low ranges dry but carry good dry feeds; irrigated pastures good; good field feeds; poor pastures and feed crops west of Cascades improved by late rains; general feeds surplus except in western part.

**South Dakota (western).**—Ranges and pastures improved early September; winter pastures poor to fair; hay short in places but considerable roughage; grains short except in south-central counties; stock in good flesh; lambs and cattle little lighter than last year; tendency to build flocks and herds.

**Texas.**—Range feed in northwest, west, and southeast improved; other areas dry; sheep section drying; generally good crops early feeds; northwestern late planted feed crops need moisture and late frost; much surplus roughage and feed grains; wheat pasture prospects unfavorable; stock in good condition; cattle marketings not heavy; good local demand; sheep and lamb sales rather slow at lower prices.

**Utah.**—Ranges good; western and southern areas need rain; generally good feed on winter ranges; hay and feed ample for winter; stock in good condition; sheep moved from high ranges.

**Washington.**—Ranges fair to good; dry matured feed on winter ranges; low ranges dry; pastures poor west of Cascades and feed crops short; good pastures and field feeds east of Cascades; hay and grain very good except in west; lamb shipments about completed.

**Wyoming.**—Ranges good except in limited local areas and parts of northeast; good feed on winter ranges; stock in very good flesh.

## GOVERNMENT SEES INCREASED CATTLE FEEDING

**S**OME INCREASE IN THE NUMBER of cattle to be fed for market during the coming winter and spring over the number fed a year earlier is probable, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. It will not be a very large increase, even though feed supplies are even more plentiful than last year and prices of most feeds substantially lower.

The probable increase in the Corn Belt states may be partly offset by decrease in other areas, especially in the western states.

July-September shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt from

stock-yards markets were a little larger this year than last; into states east of the Mississippi, smaller (though larger than in any of the other twenty years of record); into the Corn Belt west of the Mississippi, the largest in four years. Direct shipments were little changed from last year. July-September feeder shipments, however, have never been a good indication of the movement for the latter half of the year, it is explained.

A year ago a relatively larger number of feeder cattle in the Corn Belt had been shipped during the fall of 1936. They were roughed through the winter and pastured in the summer of 1937 and were a part of the increased number of feeders available a year ago. But large fed-cattle marketings the past six months indicate no similar carryover this year, and any increase in feeding must come from heavier October-December in-shipments and increased feeding of locally raised animals. Probably all the increase in Corn Belt cattle feeding will be west of the Mississippi.

Little change or some decrease is indicated for most of the western states. Feeder shipments into the Lancaster, Pa., feeding area to October 1 this year were somewhat under those of last year.

Four leading markets report shipments to the bureau of stocker and feeder steers during July, August, and September about the same as last year, but showed shipments of feeder calves and cows and heifers as almost 40 per cent smaller. Market receipts of cattle since the middle of September have been smaller than a year earlier and are expected to continue smaller during the next two months. Hence, if stocker and feeder shipments are to be larger this year than last during this period, a much larger proportion of the market supply will have to be bought for feeders than was bought for this purpose a year ago.

## BULLETINS IN BRIEF

**G**REATER WORLD DEMAND FOR American agricultural products was the outstanding feature of United States foreign trade in the first six months of 1938, according to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. "Our export trade was maintained largely by the heavy exports of certain agricultural products. The slump in imports was largely due to reduced purchases of raw materials and semi-manufactures by American industries and to smaller imports of foodstuffs, drought conditions having given way to bountiful crops," the chamber said.

\* \* \*

Indicated production of alfalfa seed in 1938 is 777,000 bushels, according to estimate of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This production is 167,000 bushels smaller than that of last year, when 944,000 bushels were harvested. It is the smallest crop since 1932 when the production was 621,000 bushels. The

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



ten-year (1927-1936) average production is 926,440 bushels. There is a decline in the acreage for seed from 493,000 acres in 1937 to 433,000 acres this year. Grasshopper infestation of fields intended for seed was the greatest single cause for the decrease in acreage harvested. . . . Total production of red clover seed is estimated at around 844,000 bushels—three-fourths larger than last year's meager crop of 469,000 bushels, but only 81 per cent as large as the 1927-36 average. . . . Production of foxtail-millet seed this year is expected to be larger than that of last year, but production of proso (hog) millet seed is expected to be smaller.

During August exports of hides to the United States from Argentina were the largest in more than a year. Approximately 175,000 pieces were shipped to the United States, making this country the largest buyer in the Argentine market. Total exports from Argentina were sharply higher than in July, 1938, as well as August a year ago.

James M. Graham, prominent stock grower and legislator, passed away on October 2 at his ranch near Split Rock, Wyoming. Death was due to heart failure following a long siege with pneumonia. Mr. Graham was sixty-six years of age and had been a resident of Wyoming more than forty years. He was active in politics and cattle growing. He was a former president of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association. Mr. Graham was a member of the American National Live Stock Association.

Thirty-eight margarine manufacturers paid a \$600 license fee to produce oleo-margarine during the fiscal year 1938, according to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. A total of 1,665 wholesalers of uncolored margarine paid the \$200 fee required of them; two wholesalers of colored margarine paid a fee of \$480. Retail grocers licensed to sell uncolored margarine during the fiscal year numbered 184,214, each paying a license fee of \$6. Dealers licensed to retail colored margarine numbered sixty-four.

One of every six farm automobiles is ten years old or over, according to indications of a survey by the federal census and the Department of Agriculture. Farm figures for trucks and tractors convey an even more striking picture of obsolescence, with one-fourth 10 years old or over and relatively small percentages of models of 1932, 1933, and 1934.

Don't try to shave with a dull blade, writes one of our subscribers. You might as well try to rope calves with an old stacker rope, or cut blue stem with a dull cycle. If the gadgets you've bought to sharpen blades do not work, take an old pair of overalls, hang them on a

hook, stretch one leg tight, and swipe the dull blade on them—long swipes. The overalls must be old-timers, well seasoned with alkali dust and tractor oils. Then you have a razor that will shave the whiskers off a catfish.

Many factors, from cost of gain to tenderness of roasts, are influenced by breeding. This is shown in twelve years of co-operative meat investigations with cattle, hogs, and sheep by the United States Department of Agriculture and state experiment stations. These experimental studies, says O. G. Hankins, in charge of meat investigations for the Bureau of Animal Industry, are a major attempt to find out the most efficient ways to produce the meat which the consumer wants. In one of the tests in North Carolina, purebred Hereford bulls were crossed with native cattle. The grade offspring averaged 53 pounds more at weaning time than native stock of the same age, and averaged 66.2 pounds more gain than the natives in the feed-lot. The cost of gain was \$1.31 per cwt. cheaper for the grades. The grade Herefords produced a larger percentage of edible meat, more separable fat, a lower percentage of bones, and the meat when cooked was more tender.

New York World's Fair recently let a contract for erection of 80 Frankfurter and hamburger stands and the purveying of 15,000,000 each of these delicacies to fair visitors. Strung into a rope, end to end, these 30,000,000 sandwich snacks would reach across the Atlantic Ocean from New York to London, the fair folks say. The meat from the hot dogs and hamburgers would fill 187 freight cars.

Consumption of textile raw material in the United States in the past 20 years has ranged from an annual low of 24.3 pounds per capita (in 1932) to a high of 36.3 pounds (in 1927), according to the Department of Agriculture. In 1937 it was about 34.8. Consumption of rayon the

past two decades has increased from practically nothing in 1918 to about 2.3 pounds in 1936. It was about 2 pounds in 1937. Wool consumption has trended downward since 1923, but the 1935-37 average of 3 pounds annually was relatively large. Raw silk consumption increased from 1920 to 1929, when it was .8 of a pound per person, but has dropped since. Raw cotton utilization was about 29.5 pounds per capita in 1937—a little less than the peak of 31.7 in 1927.

Per capita consumption of the principal edible fats for each of the past twenty-five years, as reported by the Department of Agriculture, was as follows (in pounds):

	Butter	Margarine	Lard	Compound, Vegetable Shortening	Total
1912.....	16.7	1.5	11.4	8.5	38.1
1913.....	16.6	1.6	10.9	9.6	38.7
1914.....	17.2	1.4	10.9	11.0	40.5
1915.....	17.4	1.4	11.8	10.2	40.8
1916.....	17.5	1.8	12.0	9.7	41.0
1917.....	16.0	2.8	10.5	11.0	40.3
1918.....	13.9	3.3	12.3	10.6	40.1
1919.....	15.3	3.4	11.0	11.7	41.4
1920.....	14.8	3.4	12.2	6.7	37.1
1921.....	16.2	2.0	11.1	7.1	36.4
1922.....	17.1	1.7	13.5	6.8	39.1
1923.....	17.9	2.0	14.5	6.6	41.0
1924.....	18.1	2.0	14.5	7.1	41.7
1925.....	17.7	2.0	12.5	9.8	42.0
1926.....	17.5	2.1	12.4	9.6	41.6
1927.....	17.5	2.3	12.8	9.8	42.4
1928.....	17.2	2.6	13.3	9.4	42.5
1929.....	17.4	2.9	12.9	9.9	43.1
1930.....	17.3	2.6	12.7	9.8	42.4
1931.....	18.1	1.9	13.5	9.4	42.9
1932.....	18.3	1.6	14.3	7.5	41.7
1933.....	17.9	1.9	13.9	7.6	41.3
1934.....	18.3	2.1	12.9	9.5	42.8
1935.....	17.3	3.0	9.5	12.1	41.9
1936.....	16.6	3.0	11.2	12.4	43.2
1937.....	16.7	3.1	10.5	12.3	42.6

Recent count by the Forest Service shows 126,000 elk now in protected national forest areas. How rapidly elk multiply is shown by the animals in the Helena National Forest in Montana. An importation of 32 elk in 1917 has grown into a herd of 500 head.

## REGISTERED HEREFORD CATTLE

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The turkey crop in the nation this year will be about 3.7 per cent larger than in 1937 and about 6 per cent smaller than in 1936, according to a survey by the United States Department of Agriculture covering about 6,000 flocks. The carryover in cold storage, which contributes to the total supply, is smaller than last year, only 5,773,000 pounds being reported in storage September 1, compared with 12,312,000 pounds a year ago.

Extermination of 3,050,000 prairie dogs under a WPA project on 200,000 acres in eastern Weld County, Colorado, during the summer of 1938 has been reported by W. G. McKinstry, Biological Survey expert and sponsor project supervisor in charge of the work. Strychnine-impregnated grain was used to treat this area. The WPA workers also killed thousands of rattlesnakes. . . . Coyotes cost Wyoming \$1,000,000 yearly, ac-

ording to a report of the Bureau of Biological Survey. An average of fifty-seven full-time hunters now cover the state seven days a week.

Shoe production during the first eight months of 1938 was 252,248,000 pairs, which was 17.7 per cent less than in the same period of 1937. In August, 1938, production amounted to 41,644,000 pairs—an increase over July, 1938, of 36.3 per cent, and 7.7 per cent greater than in August, 1937. . . . During the first six months of 1938 we exported \$6,361,954 worth of leather, compared with \$9,593,216 in 1937. Imports during the first half of 1938 were \$3,117,378; first half 1937, \$6,757,520.

In 1888 the farmers of the United States used about 1,800,000 tons of commercial fertilizer—one-fourth as much as they are using in 1938. The average ton of mixed fertilizer fifty years ago contained only 13.8 per cent of plant food, against 18.5 per cent now. Average retail price of a unit of plant food was nearly 50 per cent higher in 1888 than it is in 1938.

National Provisioner tells about a fifty-ton whale that was recently processed by Willibald Schaeffer Company, manufacturers of animal fats and oils, after it had been exhibited at the firm's plant at St. Louis, Missouri. The whale was eighty feet long and was transported from New Orleans on a special railway car. It was estimated it would yield about 15,000 pounds of oil and 20,000 pounds of animal feed.

Recurring thefts of cattle and sheep have brought forth an order from Montana highway patrol supervisor requiring every truck moving live stock from one county to another to have clearance papers signed by the sheriff for the county stock inspector. . . . Report of a rustler's dumping ground of "an estimated 500 cattle hides discovered in a canyon in Huerfano County (Colorado)," contained in last month's PRODUCER, is now admitted to have been exaggerated considerably. The canyon contained remains of "many cattle hides, but not 500."

Cape Cod land was cheap in the days of the Puritans. A deed executed in 1672 shows that 38 acres of land were purchased from the Indians for "one cow and divers other considerations, including one calf and an axe."

The general dry cycle that lasted from 1930 to 1936 may be at an end, says J. B. Kincer, of the Weather Bureau. He says that about 85 per cent of the United States had more than normal rainfall in the first half of 1938. The country as a whole averaged 12 per cent

above normal. All states except the tier extending from New York to Florida and Louisiana and North Dakota and Washington had above normal rainfall. . . . According to prediction of Dr. C. G. Abbot, head of the Smithsonian Institute, there will not be another serious drought in this country until 1975. He says there is possibility of a minor drought between 1950 and 1960.

Albert Mitchell, Albert, New Mexico, former American National Live Stock Association president, has been selected by New Mexico Republicans as their candidate for governor in the November election. State Democrats picked State Chairman John M. Miles to oppose Mitchell.

In the three years from 1935 through 1937, 45,000,000 trees were planted in the Great Plains shelter belt project. Of these, 65 per cent have survived. In the spring of 1938, 40,000,000 more were planted.

Efficiency of the shoe manufacturing industry in producing less expensive shoes is shown in census bureau figures set forth recently in the *United States News*. In 1925 American shoe manufacturers made 323,000,000 pairs of shoes which, at factory prices, had a total value of \$925,000,000. Latest census bureau figures show that annual production of footwear is about 388,000,000 pairs, which sell for \$643,000,000 at factory prices, or about a third less than the cost of the 1925 output.

Quantity of wool shorn or to be shorn in the United States in 1938 has been forecast by the Department of Agriculture at 368,528,000 pounds—about 2,000,000 pounds more than in 1937. Number of sheep shorn or to be shorn in 1938 is estimated at 46,632,000 head, which is 600,000 head or about 1.3 per cent more than the number shorn in 1937. Average weight per fleece this year was estimated at 7.90 pounds against 7.97 pounds last year. . . . On August 9 the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported that "recent developments in the domestic situation indicate that the low in domestic wool prices for the year probably has been reached and that some further advance in prices may occur before the end of 1938".

Leading oils used in oleomargarine in 1937 were (in pounds):

Cottonseed oil	173,615,000
Peanut oil	2,880,000
Coconut oil	73,806,000
Corn oil	1,611,000
Soybean oil	31,793,000
Palm-kernel oil	1,063,000
Babassu oil	14,606,000
Sesame oil	1,000
Lard	1,747,000
Edible animal stearin	3,375,000
Oleo oil	12,277,000

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If you want to sell three to ten carloads of calves, yearlings, twos, both sexes, or stocker twos, to Iowa corn growers, please send full description.  
**FRED CHANDLER, Chariton, Iowa.**

**HARDY RECLEANED ALFALFA SEED,** \$12.50; Grimm Alfalfa, \$13.40; White Sweet Clover, \$3.00. All 60-lb. bushel, track, Concordia. Return seed if not satisfied. Geo. Bowman, Concordia, Kansas.

**FOR SALE OR LEASE—31,000 acres** privately owned range land. Abundance of water. One thousand acres cultivated lands. Winter and summer range for 5,000 head of cattle. Address: Preston Nutter Corporation, 105 E. So. Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah.

**RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.**



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